



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

LEADER'S REPORT

For the period covering: 30 October – 10
December 2018

The attached report gives a summary and brief details to Council, of meetings and events attended by the Leader of North Ayrshire Council, Councillor Joe Cullinane.



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MEETING WITH MINISTER FOR ENERGY, CONNECTIVITY AND THE ISLANDS, 1 November

On 1 November, I attended a meeting in the Scottish Parliament with the Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands, Paul Wheelhouse. The meeting was a follow up to an earlier phone call I had with the Minister in August and enabled us to have more in depth discussions regarding Hunterston, in particular some of the proposals that are currently taking shape.

Also attended by Peel Ports, the meeting provided the opportunity to stress the importance of Hunterston in the energy sector and underline how it should be recognised as a national project, given the work it is doing in Low Carbon and circular energy, in energy research projects and in sustainable energy.

I am obviously delighted by the recent news that Scottish Enterprise has approved £10 million towards Peel Ports' £30 million proposed project to redevelop Hunterston. The project will go before Peel Ports in January for final approval before work begins on the next generation of renewable energy and the decommissioning and recycling of assets from the oil and gas sector.

NORTH AYRSHIRE ACHIEVES, 1 November

Later in the evening, I was invited to celebrate the achievements made by North Ayrshire Council (NAC) staff throughout the year at the North Ayrshire Achieves held in Saltcoats Town Hall. This programme recognises those members of staff who go the extra mile and who make a real difference to the workplace and the wider community through their hard work and dedication.

North Ayrshire Council is defined by excellent and innovative services. Our staff help to achieve this through the high standard of service they provide, their commitment to the job and their positive attitudes when working with our residents and customers.

I'd like to congratulate all those nominated, the finalists and the winners in the 9 separate categories. A special thanks also to all those who made the evening such an enjoyable occasion and to the excellent musical performances throughout the night.



VISIT BY MINISTER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE, 2 November

The Minister for Children and Young People, Maree Todd visited Castlepark Early Years Centre on 2 November and together with officers, we had a tour of the Centre followed by a discussion on best practice for the future well-being of our young people.

LIVING WAGE WEEK, 5 November

On 5 November and to mark the start of Living Wage Week, I was delighted to announce that North Ayrshire Council will begin to pay staff the new Living Wage rate of £9 an hour (an increase of 25p), five months earlier than required.

Tacking inequality and poverty are two of the biggest objectives for this Administration and I believe, that as the single biggest employer in North Ayrshire, the Council is demonstrating its support to its lowest-paid workers by committing to pay the real Living Wage now.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S STRATEGIC GROUP EVIDENCE SESSION, 9 November

On 9 November I was invited along to a Young People's Strategic Group Evidence Session held at Ardeer Community Centre and to hear from Naomi Eisenstadt, Deputy Chair of the Poverty and Inequality Commission for Scotland. The session enabled some of our young people to talk about some of their work during Year of Young People (YOYP) in relation to poverty issues and following their extensive Health Foundation work.

REMEMBRANCE DAY, 11 November

On Sunday 11 November, I attended the Remembrance Day Service held in Kilwinning as we remembered those who have given their lives in battle and to commemorate a 100 years since the end of World War 1.

OFFICIAL UNVEILING OF BOBBY LENNOX STATUE, 18 November

On 18 November I attended the official unveiling of the Bobby Lennox Statue in Countess Street in Saltcoats. It was a fabulous day with a great number of people attending to celebrate the achievements of a local, sporting legend. Thank you to everyone who was involved in organising this memorable event.



ECONOMIC, DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION BOARD, 20 November

On 20 November the Economic Development and Regeneration Board met in Quarry Road and heard updates on regional partnership collaboration and progress of our Ayrshire Growth Deal.

There was also a presentation on some of the future digital proposals, which aim to help contribute to making Ayrshire a vibrant, outward looking region attractive to visitors and investors. It is hoped that Ayrshire can lead the way when it comes to implementing digital technologies and help to create the next generation of manufacturing. To do this, we will work together to ensure that we equip our future workforce with the necessary skills needed to excel in these fields.

LAUNCH OF COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP COLLECTIVE, 24 November

On 24 November I was invited along to the Launch of the Community Leadership Collective held at Saltcoats Town Hall. The aim of this is to help identify a network of emerging community leaders who wish to develop their own skills with support from North Ayrshire Council and existing community leaders.

The hope is that we will be able to provide a “human library” from the people who took part in the Collective and that they will be able to be matched up against a list of Local Planning priorities, requirements and opportunities which have been identified by local people. We propose to match North Ayrshire Council staff volunteers with appropriate volunteering opportunities, some of which will be near where they themselves live, in order to create lasting relationships between the skills and talents of the volunteers and the skills, talents and passions of our local communities.

As part of our commitment to being a Child-Centred Council, we will prioritise opportunities to support our young people, especially those who are vulnerable or care-experienced, and we will do this through promoting and supporting our mentoring programme and the new work with MCR Pathways. This will be known as “Young Ayrshire Talent.”

JOINT YOUTH CABINET MEETING, 27 November

On 27 November, together with my colleagues in Cabinet, we held another successful Joint Youth Cabinet meeting at St Matthews Academy in Saltcoats. Informative and useful discussions were held with pupils on a range of subjects including, domestic and gender based violence, tackling bullying, mental health and support services available to young people. Young people also asked about their participation in society and citizenship, they felt it was important to get their voices heard at school and in their communities.



My thanks to the officers in our Youth Services and Education teams for their continued support in facilitating these meetings which continue to be as valuable to pupils as they are to Cabinet Members.

OFFICIAL OPENING OF CASTLEPARK ECO FRIENDLY PLAYGROUND, 27 November

I was delighted to attend the official opening of the Castlepark Primary School eco-friendly playground on 27 November. Thanks to votes by pupils' parents, staff, families, friends and the community, the school won an Eco playground built with recycled plastic.

ST MARY'S CHURCH, 27 November

In the evening of 27 November I was asked along to St Mary's Church in Irvine to talk about poverty at one of their "A Pie, a pint and a point of view" sessions. The evening was well attended and there was a lively discussion on poverty and how our communities could work together to help tackle poverty.

COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING, 29 November

On 29 November I chaired the Community Planning Partnership Board meeting which was held in Fullarton Connexions. The Board received a presentation from Morna Rae on our Fair For All Strategy and there was an update from our Welfare Reform Group detailing their continued and extensive work around Universal Credit.

Attendees then took part in one of three workshop group sessions under the subject headings of the "Child Poverty Report and Action Plan" , "Fairer Food" and the "Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP)".

The next CPP Board meeting will be held on 28 March 2019.

COSLA LEADERS, 30 November

I attended COSLA Leaders on 30 November, where Leaders discussed a range of subjects including the Local Governance Review, the Planning Bill (Scotland) following conclusion of stage 2 of the Bill and Scotland's future Employability Services in particular details about the Scottish Local Government Partnership Working Framework for Employability. Local Authorities



are significant players in employability and have long made representations to the Scottish Government that for provision to be aligned and joined up on the ground, there will need to be a change in the way in which tiers of government operate. The draft framework sets out guiding principles to support this required way of working.

COSLA Leaders' will meet again in the New Year on 25 January.

KILWINNING LOCALITY PARTNERSHIP MEETING, 5 December

On 5 December, I attended the Kilwinning Locality Partnership meeting at Kilwinning Academy. The Partnership heard updates on a number of subjects including a report from the Coastguard Rescue Service, future locality priorities, HSCP Locality Forum, Participatory Budgeting and the Locality Youth Forum.

COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING, 7 December

On 7 December I attended a meeting with the Preston Council Leader, Councillor Matthew Brown to discuss Community Wealth Building. Councillor Brown explained in detail how Preston Council had identified key institutions, the largest purchasers of goods and services locally who they thought were potential "community wealth builders". Over the course of the past 4 years, Preston City Council and the local key institutions have shifted their processes and practices around procurement, so that wealth is being harnessed more effectively for the benefit of the local economy.

My thanks to Councillor Brown for an informative and productive meeting.

FINAL COMMENTS

Finally, as the end of 2018 approaches, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff in NAC who work so tirelessly throughout the year to provide high quality public services to the people of North Ayrshire. I look forward to working with you all again in 2019.

I would like to wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Cullinane". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Councillor Joe Cullinane
Leader North Ayrshire Council