



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

North Ayrshire Council

A Meeting of the **North Ayrshire Council** of North Ayrshire Council will be held in the **Council Chambers, Ground Floor, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE** on **Wednesday, 19 December 2018** at **14:00** to consider the undernoted business.

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

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2018 will be confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7(1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (copy enclosed).

4 Provost's Report

Submit report by the Provost for the period from 30 October - 10 December 2018 (copy enclosed).

5 Leader's Report

Submit report by the Leader for the period from 30 October - 10 December 2018 (copy enclosed).

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 15 June - 10 December 2018.

7 North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board: Minutes of meetings held on 29 November 2018

Submit report by the Chief Executive on the Minutes of the meeting of the North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership Board held on 29 November 2018 (copy enclosed).

8 Appointments to Committees

Consider the undernoted nominations:-

Committee	Nominations	Proposer	Seconded
Ayrshire Regional Economic Joint Committee 3 representatives 3 named substitutes	Leader of the Council Substitute: Cllr Bell	Cllr Cullinane	Cllr Bell
	Cabinet Member for the Economy Substitute: Cllr Sweeney	Cllr Cullinane	Cllr Bell
	Leader of the Opposition Substitute: -	Cllr Cullinane	Cllr Bell
	Leader of the Opposition Substitute: Depute Leader of the Opposition	Cllr Macaulay Cllr Burns	Cllr McTiernan Cllr McTiernan
	Cllr Marshall Substitute: Cllr Billings	Cllr Marshall	Cllr Ferguson

Ayrshire Regional Economic Partnership Sub-Committee 3 representatives 3 named substitutes	Leader of the Council Substitute: - Cllr Bell	Cllr Cullinane	Cllr Bell
	Cabinet Member for the Economy Substitute: Cllr Sweeney	Cllr Cullinane	Cllr Bell
	Leader of the Opposition Substitute: -	Cllr Cullinane	Cllr Bell
	Leader of the Opposition Substitute: Depute Leader of the Opposition	Cllr Macaulay Cllr Burns	Cllr McTiernan Cllr McTiernan
	Cllr Billings Substitute: Cllr Marshall	Cllr Marshall	Cllr Ferguson

Integration Joint Board named substitute (for Cllr Sweeney)	Cllr Clarkson	Cllr Cullinane	Cllr Bell
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9 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Investment Programme, Revenue Budget and Rent Levels for 2019/20

Submit report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the HRA capital investment programme and revenue budget for 2019/20 and the consequential rent levels (copy enclosed).

10 Questions

In terms of Standing Order No. 12 submit:-

(1) a question by Councillor Donald L. Reid to the Cabinet Member for Place in the following terms:-

“Following a recent event where an elderly and disabled couple in Beith were given a time scale of 60 days for the repair of an outside light at their front door, can I ask if NAC will consider adopting a policy of giving priority treatment to older and disabled tenants for repairs which are important for their well-being and safety.”

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

“Is the better measure of school performance pupils’s “Insight “ or “position in school league tables”?”

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

"Given the Scottish Government's commitment to green energy, and pledge to phase out diesel and petrol-driven vehicles by the year 2032, eight years before the UK Government, could the Cabinet member for Place please give an update on the steps being taken to increase the availability of electric vehicle charging stations in North Ayrshire, in particular the more efficient "fast chargers"?"

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

"In October 2018 there were two public consultation events relating to the harbour development at Ardrossan. Can the member provide feedback on the outcomes from the events, and how is this information going to be used to inform the harbour project?"

(5) a question by Councillor Marshall to the Leader of the Opposition in the following terms:-

“The Scottish Government recently consulted on the removal of the single person discount on the Water Charge. Questioned on 8 November 2018 by Jackie Baillie MSP, the First Minister refused to give assurance that the Government would not rule out cuts to the single person Council Tax discount.

Would the Leader of the Opposition support the removal of the single person Council Tax discount for North Ayrshire residents?”

(6) a question by Councillor Murdoch to the Chair of the Planning Committee in the following terms:-

Councillor Robert Barr and I were nominated and sanctioned by the Full North Ayrshire Council to represent them at the new Liaison Committee for the Oil Rig Decommissioning site at Hunterston.

I believe that this was a planning condition and as such had a time limit for arranging and conducting the first meeting.

I believe that the time limit was within three months. Can you please let me know if this is the case and if there has been a breach of planning conditions.”

(7) a question by Councillor Murdoch to the Chair of the Planning Committee in the following terms:-

“At the last Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 5th December, Ms Rita Holmes, Chair of Fairlie Community Council was mentioned in part of a discussion regarding the Hunterston Decommissioning Site.

Can you confirm in what content was her name mentioned and why considering she was present at the meeting was she not allowed to answer on her own behalf.”

11 Motions

In terms of Standing Order 13, submit:-

(1) a motion by Councillor McTiernan, seconded by Councillor McClung in the following terms:-

“North Ayrshire Council fully supports the principle of openness and accountability in terms of donations to, and funding of, political parties. As such, Council agrees that the Chief Executive should write to the Leader of the Conservative and Unionist Party Group to request him to make a statement to the next Council meeting in relation to the original source of an April 2016 donation of £100,000 received by the North Ayrshire and Arran Conservative and Unionist Association from the Irvine Unionist Club.”

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

"Rent Support for Care Experienced Students

North Ayrshire Council recognises the Care Experienced Bursary, provided by the Students Awards Agency for Scotland, is designed to provide financial support for travel, books, food etc while recognising that many care experienced students will be unable to access the same family support while studying that many other young people receive. Care experienced students are very unlikely to be eligible for any benefits out with of the Care Experienced Bursary therefore resulting in a rent liability.

North Ayrshire Council currently have 10 young people who are in Council tenancies and eligible for the Care Experienced Bursary who have a rent liability. North Ayrshire Council therefore agrees to work with the Integration Joint Board to provide financial support to care experienced students who are our tenants and in receipt of the Care Experienced Bursary."

12 Urgent Items

Any other items which the Provost considers to be urgent.

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If you have any queries regarding this and, in particular, if you believe that use and/or storage of any particular information would cause, or be likely to cause, substantial damage or distress to any individual, please contact committeeservices@north-ayrshire.gov.uk.

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

Chair:

Apologies:

Attending:

IRVINE, 7 November 2018 - 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, Tony Gurney, Alan Hill, Christina Larsen, Tom Marshall, Jean McClung, 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

C. Hatton, Chief Executive; L. Friel, Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support); K. Yeomans, Executive Director (Economy and Communities); S. Brown, Director (Health and Social Care Partnership); A. McClelland, Head of Service (Learning, Teaching and Curriculum) (Education and Youth Employment); R. McCutcheon, Head of Service (Commercial) (Place); and A. Fraser, Head of Democratic Services, A. Craig, Senior Manager (Legal Services), A. Beveridge, Communications Support Officer (Media and Internal Communications); H. Clancy and D. McCaw, Committee Services Officers and M. Anderson, Committee Services Team Leader (Chief Executive's Service).

Chair

Provost Clarkson in the Chair.

Apologies

John Glover and Shaun Macaulay.

1. Provost's Remarks

The Provost welcomed those present to the meeting and dealt with preliminary matters, which included an announcement that the Council meeting would be webcast.

2. Apologies

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

3. Declarations of Interest

In terms of Standing Order 10 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors, Councillor Gurney as the relative by marriage of the owners of a property for sale, declared an indirect interest in Agenda Item 17(2) (Motion). The nature of the interest did not necessitate the Member leaving the meeting during consideration of the item. Councillor Gurney took no part in the discussion or decision.

Councillor Billings, as a member of the group 'Think About Plastic – Arran', declared an interest in Agenda Item 16(3) (Questions). The nature of the interest in the context of the agenda item did not necessitate Councillor Billings leaving the meeting during consideration of this item.

There were no declarations of the Party Whip.

4. Previous Minutes

Councillor McNicol made reference to Item 14(o) of the Minute of the last meeting held on 19 September 2018. Councillor McNicol intimated that, although the draft Minute had been amended at his request to include a figure referred to within his supplementary question, it did not contain figures referred to within the preamble to his supplementary question. As a consequence, Councillor McNicol challenged the accuracy of the Minute.

The Head of Democratic Services advised that the Minute accurately recorded the terms of Councillor McNicol's supplementary question and was, therefore, a correct record. Council Minutes were not a verbatim record, nor did they record preambles. Minutes should be precise and concise, recording what was done and no more. The Head of Democratic Services cautioned against setting a precedent by also seeking to include within the Minute selected elements of a preamble or debate.

Councillor McNicol, seconded by Councillor Barr, moved that the Minute be confirmed as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of the following figures relating to the total unitary charge payments:-

"Payments made from 2007/08 to 2016/17 - £107,068,624
Estimated total payments for 2017/18 - £12,607,315
Estimated future payments till 2037/38 - £275,587,000
A total payment of "395,272,939"

As an amendment, Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Foster, moved that the Minute be confirmed as a correct record.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the terms and scope of the motion.

Following questions and summing up, a roll call vote was requested. Having failed to find the support of the required 6 Members for a roll call vote in terms of Standing Order 17.5, there voted by a show of hands for the amendment 17 and for the motion 9, and the amendment was declared carried.

Thereafter, the Minutes were signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

5. Provost's Report

Submitted report by the Provost for the period from 11 September – 29 October 2018.

The Provost highlighted the following elements of his written report:-

- visits to Hayocks and Corsehill Primary Schools and Kilwinning Academy;
- attendance at the AGM of the Scottish Provosts' Association;
- the funds raised by staff and Elected Members at the World's Biggest Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Support and the Go Purple Day for the Ayrshire Hospice;
- a number of community events, including the Festival of Juvenile Solo Piping, Irvine Incorporated Trades Annual Dinner, West FM Cream of Ayrshire Awards and Ayrshire Sportsability Athletes' Celebration Event; and
- attendance at events outwith North Ayrshire, including the Gathering of Armed Forces and Veterans Champions, receptions hosted by the Consul General of Turkey and the Consul General of China and the Ayrshire Muslim Association's Grand Official Open Day.

Noted.

6. Leader's Report

Submitted report by the Leader for the period from 11 September – 29 October 2018.

The Leader highlighted the elements of his written report which related to events marking Challenge Poverty Week, particularly those which took place in primary schools. Councillor Cullinane took the opportunity to thank those Elected Members who had joined him at various events and advised of the preparation of a report to provide participating schools with feedback.

The Leader then provided an update on the current position with regard to the local government pay award. Councillor Cullinane expressed disappointment at a recent decision by the COSLA Leaders group on writing to members of the EIS union. He intimated that the letters would not be sent to North Ayrshire teaching staff.

Councillor Gurney sought advice on whether Members were permitted to ask a question in respect of the Leader's report. The Head of Democratic Services advised that, in terms of Standing Order 9.7, reports by the Provost and Leader were considered as matters of information and were not subject to questions, debate or motions.

Noted.

7. Council Minute Volume

Submitted for noting, the Minutes of meetings of committees of the Council held in the period 16 August – 24 October 2018.

Noted.

8. North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board: Minutes of meetings held on 20 September 2018

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Minutes of the meeting of the North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership Board held on 20 September 2018. The CPP Board Minutes were set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

The Chief Executive referred to Agenda Item 8 of the CPP Board Minute and advised Members of a seminar on Adverse Childhood Experiences which would take place on 19 November 2018.

Noted.

9. Short Life Working Group on Questions and Motions

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the findings of a short-life working group of Elected Members on Questions and Motions to Council, and to invite the Council to consider the recommendations set out at Appendix 1.

The short-life working group was established following the meeting of the Council on 27 June 2018. Its findings were reported to the Council on 19 September 2018 and, thereafter, were the subject of detailed consideration at a Member seminar held on 23 October 2018.

The Council agreed as follows:-

- (a) to approve the changes to Standing Orders as set out in the Appendix to the report; and
- (b) that there be no change to Standing Order 12.3 in terms of removing the Leader of the Opposition from the categories of Members to whom questions may be addressed.

10. Chief Executive Roles

Submitted report by the Council's Monitoring Officer advising of the various roles to be undertaken by the newly appointed Chief Executive, Craig Hatton, in terms of the Scheme of Delegation to Officers. The report also sought approval for the Chief Executive to be appointed as a Director of North Ayrshire Ventures Trust following the former Chief Executive's resignation from that role on 29 October 2018.

The Council agreed as follows:-

- (a) to note the roles to be undertaken by the Chief Executive in terms of the Scheme of Delegation to Officers and set out in Section 3 of the report, namely Head of Paid Service, Proper Officer, Returning/Counting Officer and Authorising Officer; and
- (b) to appoint the Chief Executive as a Director of North Ayrshire Ventures Trust.

11. Corporate Equality Group

Submitted report by Chief Executive seeking Elected Member representation on the Council's Corporate Equality Group. Nominations were sought from three Elected Members, one of whom would be appointed as Chair. The remit of the Group was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Bell, moved that Councillor McPhater be appointed to serve on the Group.

Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Hill, moved that Councillor McMaster be so nominated.

Councillor Marshall, seconded by Councillor Ferguson, moved that Councillor Stephen be so nominated.

There being no further nominations, Councillors McPhater, McMaster and Stephen were so appointed.

Accordingly, the Council agreed as follows:-

- (a) to appoint Councillors McPhater, McMaster and Stephen to serve on the Corporate Equality Group; and
- (b) that it be remitted to the Group to appoint a Chair from among the three Members.

12. Review of Local Governance

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the process for the Council's response to the Review of Local Governance.

Appendix 1 to the report set out a letter dated 22 June 2018 from Angela Constance MSP, John Swinney MSP and Councillor Alison Evison of COSLA, to public sector leaders regarding Strand 2 of the Local Governance Review. The main themes of the Review and the proposed points for inclusion in the Council's response were set out in Section 2 of the report.

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

As an amendment, Councillor Gallacher, seconded by Councillor Ferguson, moved that the Council approve the recommendations set out in the report, subject to the removal of bullet points 1, 2, 4 and 6 from Section 2.22 on Financial Empowerment.

As a further amendment, Councillor Billings, seconded by Councillor Marshall, moved that the Council approve the recommendations set out in the report, subject to the removal from Section 2.21 of the phrase "a requirement for community councils to engage in locality planning" and its replacement with "dissolve community councils and incorporate their roles within appropriately constituted locality partnerships."

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the terms and scope of the Councillor Billings' amendment, and on consultation with Members and others in respect of the proposed Council response.

Following questions, debate and summing up, on a division, there voted for the first amendment 7 and for the motion 24. The motion was declared carried and became the substantive motion.

On a division, there voted for the further amendment 5 and for the substantive motion 24, and the substantive motion was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Council agreed as follows:-

- (a) that the points detailed in Sections 2.12 to 2.22 of the report should form part of the Council's response to the Review; and
- (b) to grant authority to the Chief Executive to finalise the Council's response, in accordance with the principles set out in the report and in consultation with the Leader and Leader of the Opposition.

13. Financial Outlook 2019/20 to 2021/22

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the likely financial position of the Council's General Fund in the medium term to inform the development of budget proposals.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the anticipated level of deficit in the event of a flat cash settlement and on the loan charges to which the Council was subject.

The Executive Director undertook to provide Councillor McNicol with information on the Council's current level of debt.

The Council agreed as follows:-

- (a) to note the Financial Outlook 2019/20 to 2021/22, including the potential scale of the financial challenge which the Council faces over the next 3 years; and
- (b) that proposals to set a balanced budget for 2019/20 and beyond be submitted to a future meeting of the Council for consideration.

14. Ayrshire Growth Deal

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on progress with the Ayrshire Growth Deal and seeking Council agreement to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to agree the final Heads of Terms with the UK and Scottish Governments. Appendix 1 to the report contained a submission to the UK and Scottish Governments on the ambitions of the Ayrshire Growth Deal.

The Executive Director (Economy and Communities) advised that the terms of the report had now been approved by East and South Ayrshire Councils.

Members asked a question, and received clarification, on the funding arrangements in respect of Ardrossan Harbour.

The Council agreed as follows:-

- (a) to support the continued negotiations to secure a Growth Deal for Ayrshire;
- (b) to approve the submission of Appendix 1 of the report to the UK and Scottish Governments to reiterate the ambitions of the Ayrshire Growth Deal;
- (c) to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to conclude the Heads of Terms with both the UK and Scottish Governments in partnership with counterparts from East and South Ayrshire Councils;
- (d) to approve the commitment of £100,000 from earmarked funds to the costs of the Growth Deal Programme Management Office and the delivery of an Ayrshire Regional Economic Strategy; and
- (e) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillors Foster and McTiernan left the meeting during consideration of this item.

15. Governance Options – Ayrshire Regional Economic Partnership/Ayrshire Growth Deal

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) which presented, for approval, governance proposals in respect of the Ayrshire Regional Economic Partnership and Ayrshire Growth Deal.

The proposed membership, remit and powers of the Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee and Ayrshire Regional Economic Partnership were set out at Appendices 1 and 2, respectively. Appendix 3 contained the proposed Standing Orders of Meetings of the Joint Committee and Partnership.

The Head of Democratic Services advised that, as the proposals set out within the report differed from those agreed by the Council at its meeting on 27 June 2018, it would be necessary to agree to suspend Standing Orders in order to consider the report.

The required two thirds of Members present and voting agreed to suspend Standing Order 23 to allow consideration of the report.

Members asked a question on Elected Member representation on the proposed bodies, and received clarification that this would be a matter for future consideration.

The Council agreed as follows:-

- (a) to approve the creation of an Ayrshire Regional Economic Joint Committee with a remit and membership set out in Appendix 1 to the report; and
- (b) to approve the creation by the Ayrshire Regional Economic Joint Committee of a sub-committee, the Ayrshire Regional Economic Partnership, with a remit and membership as set out in Appendix 2 to the report.

Councillors Foster and McTiernan re-joined the meeting during consideration of this item.

In terms of Standing Order 5.7, the Provost agreed that the meeting be adjourned at 3.50 p.m. for a short comfort break. The meeting reconvened at 4.05 p.m. with the same Members and officers present and in attendance.

16. North Ayrshire Charitable Trusts

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) seeking the Council's approval for expenditure from Irvine Town Trust by Irvine Locality Partnership and expenditure from the McGavin Park Trust by Kilwinning Locality Partnership, which would result in the winding up of both trusts. The report also provided an update on the current balances of dormant and low value charitable trusts.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the destination of any remaining funds following the winding up of trusts, and on whether independent museums could benefit from North Ayrshire Museum funding.

The Council agreed as follows:-

- (a) to approve the requested expenditure from Irvine Town Trust by Irvine Locality Partnership to allow it to be wound up in line with OSCR recommendations;

- (b) to approve the requested expenditure from McGavin Park Trust by Kilwinning Locality Partnership to allow it to be wound up in line with OSCR recommendations; and
- (c) to note the current balances of the dormant and low value charitable trusts.

17. Questions

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

"At the full Council meeting on the 17th of December last year, I had initially proposed a motion, seconded by Councillor John Glover, asking if North Ayrshire Council would inspect all war memorials in the run up to this year's centenary commemoration, and where needed, do any maintenance and cleaning work in order to bring the memorials and cenotaphs up to a suitable standard for the many events that will take place around the localities. The motion was amicably withdrawn, after the Council Leader gave his assurance that this was already well in hand via the CMRF. Can he give Members an update as to the exact state of play with the condition of the war memorials across North Ayrshire?"

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

"Inspections have been undertaken at all of the 20 War Memorials across North Ayrshire. Where required works have been identified, these are also being completed. Seventeen memorials are being refurbished as part of this project. Work was completed on the Irvine War Memorial in 2015, Kilwinning Abbey was attended to in 2016 and in Millport works were complete in 2017.

The works on the various memorials vary but generally include re-patinating bronze, repainting lettering, cleaning structures and bases, re-pointing and replacing/reset of paving slabs to ensure they are all in great condition.

All works will be complete by Remembrance Sunday.

(Note: All works done except Dalry and Ardrossan South Beach, which are due to be complete by Wednesday 7 November 2018)."

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

"Who is the contractor responsible for recycling North Ayrshire's waste, and where is the waste processed?"

What proportion of waste handled by this contractor is sent overseas, and what assurances does the contractor give to the Council that all waste, whether processed in the UK or overseas, is actually getting recycled?"

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

“UPM Kymmene (UK) Limited is the current contractor that is responsible for processing the Council's co-mingled dry recyclate. The recyclate is collected in our blue recycling bins, bulked up at our Irvine Waste Transfer Station and then transported to Shotton in Wales for processing at their materials recycling facility which adjoins their paper processing mill.

In 2017/18, 18% of our recyclate was sent overseas, with only 1% of waste being sent to Asia (mixed paper) and 82% remaining in the UK.

As part of the contract conditions, the contractor must provide a monthly contract performance report which includes the waste journey information that shows the amount of waste recycled, recovered and landfilled and the final destinations for all of our waste. The waste journey and recycling tonnage information is reported through SEPA's Waste Data Flow system on a quarterly basis, which allows material journeys to be audited. The UPM Materials Recovery Facility is also subject to regulatory review by the Environment Agency in Wales as part of the facility's Environmental Permit.

The organic waste (food and garden waste) that is collected in our brown bins is contracted to NPL Estates Limited who transfer the material to GP Landscapes in Blantyre, North Lanarkshire where material is composted and used as a soil fertiliser within the UK.”

As a supplementary question, Councillor Billings asked for information on the percentage of waste sent for recycling which was actually recycled.

Councillor Montgomerie responded by undertaking to provide the requested figure at a later date.

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

“Can the portfolio holder confirm that a Tree Condition Survey will be carried out in respect of trees in Largs which are currently threatened with removal?”

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

“In 2013, the Council introduced a new Tree and Woodland Policy. One of the main reasons for doing this was to ensure consistency in how the Council manages its portfolio of trees and to install objectivity in the decision making process. The policy establishes when it's appropriate to prune trees, retain trees and as a last resort remove trees. This policy has been successfully operating for a number of years and indeed any issues that generally arise, relate to the Council's refusal to carry out tree removals. North Ayrshire Council employs two fully qualified Arborists who have vast experience in dealing with trees and carrying out tree inspections on a daily basis.

The background to the issue in Seamore Street, George Street and John Clark Street, Largs is that over a number of years complaints were received from local residents requesting the removal of trees. The trees have continued to be maintained on an annual basis, but unfortunately a number of trees are now beyond saving, which has necessitated their removal.

Two separate tree inspections have recently been carried out by a Council qualified arborist which reached the view that a number of trees need removing. The inspections entailed visually inspecting the trees from ground level and assessing their health and general condition. In addition observations of any damage to footpaths or obstructions caused by the tree were made. The trees that are deemed as either dead, dangerous or to be causing a hazard or obstruction are only being removed. There are a total of 33 trees on these streets with 22 requiring removal.

Given the volume of work undertaken by the Arboriculture Team, it is neither efficient nor cost effective to prepare a detailed written report. In this particular instance, the findings of the two site visits to assess the trees were used to develop an information briefing note for all 150 local residences. This was hand delivered/issued to all residents in Seamore Street, George Street and John Clark Street on 31 October 2018 and included details of the background to the issue, details of each tree in the area and whether it's being retained or removed and, if removed, the reason(s) why. Photos as examples of defects noted were also contained in the briefing notes.

Reason for removal included trees are dead, dying, obstructing lighting columns and damaging pavements and kerbs.

Additionally, residents were requested to submit suggested location(s) for the re-planting of 22 new saplings to replace those removed. Officers are keen to identify a suitable programme of tree replanting in the area and will continue to work with local residents to progress the planting of replacement trees at suitable locations.

The trees were originally due to be removed week commencing 22 October 2018; however this was put on hold as residents indicated that they were to procure an independent tree survey.

I'm not aware if the residents have done this. However, if this information is forthcoming then officers will clearly review it.”

As a supplementary question, Councillor Hill asked whether, given that an independent tree survey was being carried out, the Cabinet Member could confirm the suspension of the removal of the trees pending meaningful engagement with local residents and the agreement of a replacement plan for those trees ultimately removed.

Councillor Montgomerie responded by confirming that removal of the trees was being delayed until towards the end of November to allow for further dialogue in relation to the planting of new trees. He indicated that the Council would work with residents to identify appropriate locations for new trees, which would then be planted as soon as possible.

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

“In light of the recent announcement by the Minister for Health and Sport to write off the debts of the NHS bodies in Scotland, can the Leader of the Council, who sits on the Board of NHS Ayrshire and Arran advise us of the implications for the North Ayrshire Integration Board?”

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

“The Director of Health Finance has written to NHS Chief Executives and Directors of Finance to outline the implications for Health Boards, the key points are:

- NHS Boards will require to break-even over a three-year period, in each year Boards will have flexibility to underspend or overspend by up to 1%;
- From the start of 2019-20 the Scottish Government will not seek to recover historic brokerage, this will include the brokerage incurred to the end of 2018-19; and
- NHS Boards anticipating brokerage for 2018-19 will ensure no further increase in brokerage requirement in-year.

In terms of the implications for the IJB, these can be summarised as follows:

- No impact on the current year budget or financial position, historic CRES savings targets are not part of the brokerage requirement and form part of the IJB baseline budget allocation;
- As part of the estimated brokerage requirement for 2018-19 NHS Ayrshire and Arran are assuming that the IJB will deliver financial balance this year; and
- Write-off of brokerage for this and previous financial years removes the financial risk of a share of any repayment of brokerage in future years being allocated to the IJB.

The message communicated to Health Boards is that they will all be starting with a “clean slate” from 1 April 2019, however the reality is that for those Boards requiring brokerage this year (including NHS Ayrshire and Arran) they will be starting the new financial year with a deficit.”

As a supplementary question, Councillor Dickson asked whether the Leader considered the relief of the historic burden would help the Health Board to transfer resource from the acute side of the service to the community via the Integration Joint Board.

Councillor Cullinane responded by expressing the view that the Scottish Government could facilitate this via an anticipated increase in health spending in the financial settlement which, if passported to IJBs, could assist in shifting that balance. Councillor Cullinane also reflected on the already positive partnership working evident within Ayrshire and Arran, notwithstanding financial constraints.

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

“To ask the Portfolio Holder for Place if he can provide me with an update on the re-housing of tenants of the High Flats in Fullarton?”

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

“Since the Cabinet decision on 19 June 2018 to demolish the Fullarton high flats, representatives from Housing Services have met with households across the five tower blocks to assist them in completing application forms for rehousing and establish any specific housing needs. As at 2 November, 89% of the application forms had been completed and input to the Council’s allocation system.

A steering group – chaired by the Head of Physical Environment and with representation from Housing, PMI and the Health and Social Care Partnership - meets regularly to carefully plan the process of rehousing the tenants, ensuring elderly and more vulnerable tenants have the support they need. Colleagues in the Health and Social Care Partnership are assisting Housing Services staff with attempts to engage with the small number of tenants who have not yet completed an application for housing.

A dedicated team has been established to give tenants a single point of contact and practical assistance as they prepare to move. Support provided includes:

- Tenants are offered housing in an area and house type of their choice;
- Their new home is fully decorated;
- New floor coverings and blinds are provided throughout;
- Each tenant receives a home loss payment of £1,500;
- We provide advice on dealing with utility companies, telephone disconnection and reconnection and mail redirection;
- A free removal service is provided (Boxes are delivered to tenants and they can either pack their own belongings or have the removal company pack for them. The tenant's belongings are then delivered to their new home and unpacked if required); and
- Washing machines and cookers are disconnected and re-connected free of charge.

The first tenant moved to their new home on 25 September and a further 7 tenants have moved since then.

In addition:

- 1 move is scheduled for this week;
- 8 further offers have been made, of which 6 have been pre-accepted; and
- A further 19 properties have become void outwith the high flats rehousing programme

Council officers will continue to support the remaining 239 households to ensure that their housing needs are met and their rehousing takes place as smoothly as possible.”

As a supplementary question, Councillor Larsen asked whether it would be possible to accommodate those residents wishing to continue to live in the Fullarton area.

Councillor Montgomerie responded by confirming that everything would be done to accommodate this.

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

“In September this year, the Audit and Scrutiny Committee asked for and received a briefing on the risks associated with BREXIT. Given the increasing likelihood of a no deal BREXIT, can the Leader confirm if the Council is having to review contingency plans to deal with this potential outcome?”

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

“On 25 September 2018, the Audit and Scrutiny Committee considered a report by the Chief Executive on the work the Council is doing in preparation for Brexit to mitigate real and perceived risks. Appendix A to the report identified the changes, challenges, risks, opportunities and actions by the Council to Brexit. The Committee agreed to (a) note the content of the report; and (b) receive a quarterly update report on Brexit development.

The UK Government have, since August 2018, been producing sectoral Guidance on how to prepare for Brexit if there is no deal. This Guidance identifies some, but by no means all, of the risks of a no-deal Brexit. While there will be direct impacts on the Council, there will also be secondary impacts which stem from the impacts on business, the community and partners.

One of the difficulties of undertaking contingency planning is that even at this late stage there is no certainty on whether there will be a deal, or the shape of that deal. However officers continue to monitor the situation and will report quarterly to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee. Where possible we have taken predictive action, this includes: hosting two events in partnership with the Scottish Government for EU migrants across Ayrshire and participating in a similar event in East Ayrshire; sharing Scottish Enterprise and Business Gateway Brexit Readiness guidance and support with our local business base; participating in events to shape the new UK Shared Prosperity Fund including with the Scotland Office and the UK Government's Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government; participating in the COSLA Brexit Stakeholders Group; and providing written responses to seven consultations on Brexit related matters."

As a supplementary question, Councillor Burns asked for the Leader's commitment that, in the event of the position changing to the extent that Members required to be briefed, arrangements would be made for that to happen.

Councillor Cullinane responded in the affirmative.

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

"To ask the relevant member, how much money in total has been spent on the high flats in Irvine by NAC, on work of any kind, (maintenance or upgrading etc), in the last ten years"

Councillor Gallacher requested that his question and the response be taken as read.

Councillor Montgomerie's written response was as follows:-

"There has been a total of £6.084m (excluding VAT) spent on the Fullarton high flats in the last ten years.

This comprises £2.679m revenue and £3.405m capital spend, including:

Revenue

- £1.243m response repairs
- £0.026m planned maintenance
- £0.656m voids management
- £0.185m aids and adaptations
- £0.022m asbestos removals
- £0.547m projects

Capital

- £0.388m bathroom replacement
- £0.302m kitchen replacement
- £0.603m electrical rewire
- £0.966m lift replacement
- £0.060m door entry system

- £0.275m internal doors
- £0.212m tank room re-cladding
- £0.185m water tank replacement
- £0.334m roof replacement
- £0.080m render repairs”

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

"Following the recent issues surrounding the removal of trees in three streets in Largs and the comparison by some to the removal of Douglas Park Shelter, will there be any changes in the way NAC consult with residents and members of the public in similar situations that may arise in the future?

There have been two site visits to assess the trees with two different Arborists. Has a written report or survey now been done?"

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

“The question asks whether there will be changes in the Council's consultation processes, following issues relating to the Douglas Park Shelter and the trees. As a matter of principle, the Council is committed to engaging in a meaningful way with its communities so that it can understand and respond effectively to local needs. It is committed to the principles of the National Standards on Community Engagement. As part of this, the Council works closely with the Consultation Institute and North Ayrshire Council was the first council in Scotland to be awarded the Consultation Institute's Quality Accreditation of Best Practice.

In relation to the Douglas Park Shelter, extensive consultation was carried out.

The facts are as follows:-

- Following receipt of complaints from nearby residents about anti-social behaviour, Council officers promptly investigated;
- Council officers liaised with Police Scotland to obtain their views ;
- Council officers consulted with all four local Councillors to obtain their views on demolition;
- Although there was no legal obligation to do so, Largs Community Council were consulted. They considered the issue of demolition at two meetings and the Council was able to consider their views prior to making a final decision;
- There was a public drop-in session with Fairlie Growers on 22 September 2017 to make the community aware of their asset transfer plans for the Park;
- The demolition was fully considered by Cabinet on 26 September 2017; and
- The Audit and Scrutiny Committee on 11 October reviewed this decision and also considered a petition from local residents.

Clearly it is always intended that local communities are informed, engaged and consulted on matters affecting their local area. Indeed the Council has been carrying out an extremely successful Participatory Budgeting exercise for its Grounds Maintenance services which has involved significant public consultation and engagement.

Unfortunately, the circumstances surrounding the trees in Largs referred to by Councillor Murdoch involve issues of public safety.

As previously confirmed when answering an earlier question in respect of this matter, these trees need to be removed for a variety of reasons such as the trees are dead, dying, obstructing lighting columns and damaging pavements and kerbs.

Further pruning or pollarding would not help this situation.

In the 3 streets in Largs, for the above mentioned reasons consultation wouldn't have been appropriate as the trees were dangerous and in many cases causing hazard(s).

In cases of public safety it's more appropriate for notification rather than consultation.

All residents in the 3 streets were informed there was traffic management being put in place in the area due to tree removal and were provided with suitable notice of this.

This in turn generated enquiries from local residents and from Largs Community Council in respect of the plans for the individual trees to be removed.

Communication was provided to local residents by way of the information briefing note which was also shared with local members and Largs Community Council.

Furthermore, Largs Community Council has accepted an offer to meet with Council officers and a small group of local residents and dates are being arranged for this to take place.

I'd like to stress that when it's a matter of public safety, the Council will take appropriate action to remedy the situation, but do clearly have a clear commitment to engaging, consulting and working with local communities in all areas as appropriate.

Given the volume of work undertaken by the Arboriculture Team it is neither efficient nor cost effective to prepare a detailed written report. In this particular instance the findings of the two site visits to assess the trees, as previously mentioned, were used to develop an information briefing note for all 150 local residences, which was hand delivered/issued to all residents in Seamore Street, George Street and John Clark Street on 31 October 2018.

This included the background to the issue, details of each tree in the area and whether or not it's being retained or removed and, if removed, the reason(s) why. Photos as examples of defects noted were also contained in the briefing notes.

Reason for removal included trees are dead, dying, obstructing lighting columns and damaging pavements and kerbs."

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

“NAC collected the BID levy on behalf of Largs Matters Ltd from local businesses in Largs under Rates Legislation. Now that the five year BID has come to an end, will NAC be involved in returning the balance of funds to the businesses or as the statute states, given to an organisation with a similar aim?”

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

“The Business Improvement Districts (Scotland) Regulations 2017 provide that when a BID comes to an end, and there is money left over, this is refunded or credited to the rates account of those who were liable to pay the BID levy. The only exception is where this would provide a refund or credit of less than £10 to each person liable to pay the levy. In that case, the money goes into the North Ayrshire Council General Fund.

Therefore, any monies held by Largs Matters cannot be given to another organisation, even an organisation with a similar aim.

Discussions are presently underway between the Council, Largs Matters and Scotland's Town Partnership to identify the amounts available for distribution back to ratepayers”.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Murdoch asked whether individual businesses could request that refunds instead be awarded to an organisation with a purpose similar to the BID, and the likely timescale for the return of the moneys in question.

Councillor Gallagher responded by reiterating the legal position and asserting that, even if it were possible to award the funds to an alternative organisation, this would be impractical given the number of individual businesses involved in the BID. Councillor Gallagher indicated he had not heard the second part of Councillor Murdoch's question and was not, therefore, in a position to respond.

Councillor McNicol left the meeting during consideration of this item.

18. Motions

In terms of Standing Order 13, submitted:-

- (1) a motion by Councillor Donald Reid, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, in the following terms:-

"CHARTER AGAINST MODERN SLAVERY

North Ayrshire Council pledges to:-

1. Ensure that our corporate procurement team receive appropriate training in modern slavery.
2. Require its contractors to comply fully with the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015 and the Modern Slavery Act 2015 wherever they apply, with contract termination as a potential sanction for non-compliance.
3. Challenge any abnormally low-cost tenders to ensure they do not rely upon the potential contractor practising modern slavery.
4. Highlight to suppliers that contracted workers are free to join a trade union and are not to be treated unfairly for belonging to one.
5. Publicise our whistle-blowing system for staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
6. Require tendered contractors to adopt a whistle-blowing policy which enables staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
7. Review contractual spending regularly to identify any potential issues with modern slavery.
8. Highlight for our suppliers any risks identified concerning modern slavery and refer them to the relevant agencies to be addressed.
9. Refer for investigation via the National Crime Agency's national referral mechanism any of its contractors identified as a cause for concern regarding modern slavery.
10. Report publicly on the implementation of this policy annually."

There being no amendment, the motion was declared carried.

- (2) a motion by Councillor Billings, seconded by Councillor Marshall, in the following terms:-

"I move that new owners of empty dwellings who can demonstrate that they are actively undertaking major repair work to render the dwelling habitable, be allowed the maximum discount under the Council Tax (Variation for Unoccupied Dwellings) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 for a period of up to 12 months.

Effect of this change will be:

- When the property has no history of empty discount being claimed, new owner gets discounts as set out in current policy (no change);
- When the previous owner has claimed empty property exemption for a maximum of one year, the new owner can claim 50% discount for 1 year; and
- When the previous owner has claimed empty property exemption for less than a year, new owner can claim the remainder of the 12 months of the original claim, then 50% discount until 12 months from date of change of ownership."

There being no amendment, the motion was declared carried.

Councillor McNicol re-joined the meeting during consideration of this item.

19. Motion

In terms of Standing Order 22, submitted:-

- (1) a motion by Councillor McNicol, seconded by Councillor Barr, in the following terms:-

"That the Council amend Section 13 of the Scheme of Administration to read:-

"Staffing and Recruitment Committee
Constitution

Six members of the Council, namely the Leader of the Council, a member of the Administration, the Leader and a member of the Opposition, a member of the Conservative and Unionist Group and a member of the Independents shall constitute the membership of the Committee. The Cabinet Member holding the relevant service portfolio relating to that particular Chief Officer appointment shall also be a member of the Committee for business relating to that appointment only. Each member will have a named substitute who may attend meetings in their place when necessary."

The Head of Democratic Services advised that, as the Scheme of Administration had been approved within the last six months, it would be necessary to agree to suspend Standing Orders in order to consider the motion.

The required two thirds of Members present and voting agreed to suspend Standing Order 23 to allow consideration of the motion.

There being no amendment, the motion was declared carried.

Following a point raised by the mover and seconder of the motion, clarification was provided that the procedure followed in submitting the motion to the last meeting of the Council prior to its consideration at this meeting, conformed to the requirements of Standing Orders.

The Chief Executive invited nominations for a representative and named substitute from the Conservative and Unionist Group and from the Independents.

In response to a request by Councillor Burns for clarification, the Head of Democratic Services confirmed that (i) it was competent to proceed with nominations prior to securing a commitment from nominees that they would adhere to the established procedures associated with considering chief officer appointments and (ii) notwithstanding the procedures in place to seek consensus on such appointments, the voting provisions of Standing Orders applied to the Staffing and Recruitment Committee.

Councillor Billings, seconded by Councillor Gallacher, nominated Councillors Marshall and Ferguson as the Conservative and Unionist Group representative and named substitute, respectively, on the Staffing and Recruitment Committee. There being no further nominations, Councillors Marshall and Ferguson were so appointed.

Councillor Donald L. Reid, seconded by Councillor Foster, nominated himself as the Independents representative on the Staffing and Recruitment Committee. There being no further nominations, Councillor Donald L. Reid was so appointed.

Accordingly, the Council agreed as follows:-

- (a) to amend the Scheme of Administration in accordance with the terms of the motion;
- (b) to appoint Councillors Marshall and Ferguson as the Conservative and Unionist Group representative and named substitute, respectively, on the Staffing and Recruitment Committee;
- (c) to appoint Councillor Donald L. Reid as the Independent representative on the Staffing and Recruitment Committee; and
- (d) to continue to a future meeting consideration of the appointment of an Independent named substitute on the Staffing and Recruitment Committee.

The meeting ended at 5.55 p.m.



PROVOST'S REPORT

19 December 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 Provost of North Ayrshire Council, Councillor Ian Clarkson.

PROVOST'S REPORT

19 December for the period covering: 30 October – 10 December 2018

Since the last meeting of the Council I have attended various events throughout North Ayrshire.

North Ayrshire Achieves, Saltcoats Town Hall, 1 November

I attended North Ayrshire Achieves on 1 November in Saltcoats Town Hall. North Ayrshire Achieves recognises the fantastic work that our employees do. They work together, strive for excellence and push the boundaries to achieve great results. Through this they regularly demonstrate that they can make great things happen. It was a privilege to celebrate with the winners in each category and acknowledge everyone who was nominated.

DrEAM North Ayrshire, 2 November

DrEAM Day (Drop Everything and Move) North Ayrshire took place on 2 November. This initiative encourages people to have fun, while living healthier and more active lives. I was delighted to be able to take part in the walking football class at the Portal and the intergenerational dance event with the residents of Arran View Care home and children from Pennyburn Nursery.

Three Towns Growers WW1 Garden of Remembrance Opening, Ardrossan, 3 November

On 3 November I was invited to plant a tree to mark the opening of the Three Towns Growers WW1 Garden of Remembrance in Ardrossan. This was an excellent project which marked the end of WW1 and highlighted the excellent work carried out in our communities by volunteers.

Ayrshire Golf League, 50th Anniversary Prize giving Dinner, Grange Campus, Kilmarnock, 5 November

Along with the Provosts of South and East Ayrshire Councils I attended the Ayrshire Golf League 50th Anniversary Dinner in the Grange Campus, Kilmarnock. The event was very well attended and a range of prizes were awarded to golfers throughout Ayrshire.

Poppy Cascade, Portal, Irvine, 6 November

On 6 November I was delighted to visit the Portal to view the excellent poppy cascade which was produced by knitters from Dreghorn library. The poppies were individually hand-crafted and produced to mark the centenary of the end of WW1.

WW1 Commemoration Exhibition, Trinity Church, Irvine, 8 November

I visited the WW1 Commemorative Exhibition in the Trinity Church, Irvine on 8 November. This public event was supported by North Ayrshire's WW1 Legacy Fund and featured virtual reality experiences, games, films and memorabilia.

Ayrshire College Graduation and Awards Ceremony, Kilwinning Campus, 8 & 9 November

On 8 & 9 November I attended the Ayrshire College (Kilwinning Campus) Graduation and Award Ceremony in Kilwinning Abbey. I was delighted to celebrate the success of all those who graduated. The graduates were joined by family members, friends and lecturers.

Remembrance Sunday, Irvine, 11 November

I attended the Armistice Day Parade and Service in Irvine on 11 November. It was lovely to see so many people out showing their respects and the different generations remembering those brave men and women who lost their lives in conflicts. It is so important that we continue to recognise their efforts and never lose sight of what an impact they have had on the lives we live today.

Mrs. Sarah McNally, 100th Birthday, Beith, 15 November

It was an honour to visit Mrs. McNally from Beith on the 15 November on the occasion of her 100th birthday. It is always a pleasure to mark such milestones and meet some of North Ayrshire's oldest citizens.

***Veterans First Point Scotland and a Sense of Belonging Arts Programme -
"Remembering Those", Great Hall, Edinburgh Castle, 15 November***

On the 15 November I attended a special arts event held in Edinburgh Castle focusing on WW1, commemorating lives lost and recognising and saluting the courage and bravery of those at war and those on the home front. The event was organised by Veterans First Point Centres across Scotland and featured an evening of music and drama focusing on veterans' lives and experiences.

Unveiling of Bobby Lennox Statue, Saltcoats 18 November

On 18 November I, along with many other guests, attended the unveiling ceremony of a statue in recognitions of the achievements of Bobby Lennox MBE, one of Scotland's footballing greats, who resides in Saltcoats. The event was very well attended and the statue is a great tribute to Bobby and his footballing career

Town Twinning Visit, Voisins-les- Brettoneaux, 23 – 26 November

I attended a number of events in Voisins-les- Brettoneaux, France which is Irvine's Twin Town. The Mayor and the Voisins Jumelages hosted a series of meetings and civic events over the weekend period. The visit gave me the opportunity to strengthen the relationship we have with Voisins and to explore different initiatives which will help develop the relationship further. I am always heartened and inspired by the fondness the citizens of Voisins have for Irvine and North Ayrshire.

Official launch of the Developing Young Workforce/Prince's Trust Supported Projects, Irvine Royal Academy, 30 November

On 30 November I officially launched the Developing Young Workforce/Prince's Trust supported projects. These projects included barista, rural skills and bike repair. It is excellent to see our young people learning new skills which will assist them greatly in preparation for employment. Developing Young Workforce and Prince's Trust are working throughout North Ayrshire engaging and supporting our young people.

Stevenston Christmas Lights Switch On, Stevenston, 30 November

On the evening of 30 November I attended the Stevenston Christmas Lights Switch On. I am always keen to support community events of this type as I appreciate the amount of hard work that goes on behind the scene by volunteers who give up their free time and work tirelessly for their local community.

Irvine Christmas Lights Switch On, Irvine, 2 December

Irvine Christmas Lights Switch On took place on 2 December which I was delighted to go along to. A number of events and activities took place in the run up to and after the switch on of the lights and was attended by many. The volunteers who staged this year's event are to be congratulated for all their hard work and effort.

Foster Carers' Coffee Morning, Fullarton Connexions, Irvine, 3 December

On the morning of 3 December I attended the Foster Carers' Coffee Morning in Fullarton Connexions, Irvine. The event was held to recognise the positive impact our foster carers have on the lives of children and young people in North Ayrshire.

Senior Citizen's Christmas Dinner, Riverside Lodge Hotel, 3 December

I attended the Ward 1 Senior Citizen's Christmas Dinner held in the Riverside Lodge Hotel on 3 December. These events provide a great opportunity for the older people in our communities to come together.

Citizenship Ceremony, Saltcoats Town Hall, 5 December

I welcomed a new UK citizen to North Ayrshire at a special citizenship ceremony held in Saltcoats Town Hall on 5 December. These events signify the end of a long and sometimes arduous journey for the applicant and it is excellent to see them completing the final phase.

Reclaim the Night, Irvine, 6 December

I took part in the Reclaim the Night walk from the Trinity Church in Irvine to the Harbour Arts Centre on 6 December. I was delighted to be able to assist in raising awareness about the dangers to women and girls from sexual violence and promote a safer environment for women and girls to walk without fear after dark.

Irvine Lasses St. Andrew's Night Concert, Wellwood Burns Centre, Irvine 6 December

I attended the Irvine Lasses Burns Club St, Andrew's Night Concert held in Wellwood Burns Centre on 6 December. This event which is firmly fixed in Irvine's calendar of events explores and celebrates Irvine's rich cultural heritage and its association with Robert Burns.

Cash for Kids Lunch, Ayr Racecourse, 7 December

I, along with representatives from South and East Ayrshire Council, attended the annual Cash for Kids lunch held in Ayr Racecourse. For over 30 years Cash for Kids has been changing the lives of thousands who face unimaginable difficulties in their lives. Each year Cash for Kids support thousands of children up to 16 years old who are living in poverty or who simply need extra care and guidance. North Ayrshire Council were awarded £38,975 which will go to assist some of our young people this Christmas.

Take the Lead Celebration Day, Greenwood Academy, 8 December

On Saturday 8 December I attended Take the Lead Celebration Day in Greenwood Academy. "Take the Lead" is a three-year project supported by CashBack for Communities through Creative Scotland's CashBack for Creativity Programme. The project works with young people in North Ayrshire and HMYOI Polmont and aims to increase ambition and aspiration by using dance to build young people's confidence and capacity, as well as their health and well-being.



Ian Clarkson

Councillor Ian Clarkson
Provost North Ayrshire Council



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.

LEADER'S REPORT

For the period covering: 30 October – 10 December 2018

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, appearing to read 'Joe Cullinane'.

Councillor Joe Cullinane
Leader North Ayrshire Council

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

19 December 2018

North Ayrshire Council

Title: **North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board:
Minutes of meetings held on 29 November 2018**

Purpose: To submit the Minutes of the meeting of the North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership Board held on 29
November 2018

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 Council and are detailed in Section 2.1.

2. Background

- 2.1 Minutes of meeting of the CPP Board held on 29 November 2018 are appended. Particular matters for the Council's attention include the following:-

Agenda Item 4

Greig Robson provided a report on the Welfare Reform Working Group and the key developments which have taken place including the Universal Credit full service roll-out and the emerging devolved Scottish Social Security Agency and system.

Agenda Item 5

The minutes of the Locality Partnership meetings were considered and the Chairs highlighted developments, particularly in relation to the Community Investment Fund.

Agenda Item 6

Morna Rae spoke about a recent workshop which considered the CPP response to the Local Governance Review consultation. The draft response will be considered by the Strategic Management Team and then submitted to the Community Planning Partnership Board for approval. The Board agreed this approach.

Agenda Item 7

Attendees split into groups and participated in three workshops which focused on the Fair for All approach to food, Child Poverty, and North Ayrshire's Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP).

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: Children and Young People:	There are no implications relating to equality or children and young people 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 Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.
Community Benefits:	There are no community benefit implications arising from this report.

5. Consultation

5.1 No consultation was required.



CRAIG HATTON
Chief Executive

For further information please contact **Morna Rae** on **01294 324177**.

Background Papers

N/A

Community Planning Partnership Board

Thursday 29 November 2018, 11am
Fullarton Connexions



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

Present

North Ayrshire Council

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

John Bell, Elected Member

Marie Burns, Elected Member

Alex Gallagher, Elected Member

Scott Davidson, Elected Member

Ellen McMaster, Elected Member

Tony Gurney, Elected Member

Craig Hatton, Chief Executive

NHS Ayrshire and Arran

John Burns, Chief Executive

Lynne McNiven, Consultant in Public Health

Scottish Enterprise

Mark Newlands, Location Director

Scottish Fire and Rescue

Jim Scott, Area Manager

Police Scotland

Colin Convery, Area Commander

Ayrshire College

Michael Breen, Vice Principal

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Allan Comrie, Senior Transport Planner

Department of Work and Pensions

Rhona Welch, District Manager

In Attendance

Yvonne Baulk (NAC), Lauren Cameron (NAC), Jacqui Greenlees (NAC), Peter Galliford (DWP), Greig Wilton (NAC), Regina McDevitt (NHS), Audrey McGee (DWP), John McKnight (NAC) Bruce McMaster (NAC), Andrew Noble (NAC), Morna Rae (NAC), Greig Robson, (NAC), Audrey Sutton (NAC)

Apologies

Martin Cheyne (NHS), Katie Hutton (SDS), Paul Main (Police Scotland), Vicki Yuill (TSI)

1. Welcome and Apologies

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

2. Minute of the Previous Meeting and Action Note

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and the action note was discussed. Morna Rae, North Ayrshire Council, provided an update on the following areas:-

NHS Transformation - Partners have provided feedback to NHS colleagues on how to communicate NHS transformation to the public. The process is ongoing and continued partner support is welcomed.

Community Justice - Vicki Yuill is progressing arrangements with third sector on an ACEs input and will provide an update at a future meeting.

Local Outcomes Improvement Plan - The performance report has been circulated to members and feedback has been provided.

Community Learning and Development Strategic Plan - Partners have provided Audrey Sutton with feedback on the plan.

3. Fair for All Overview

Morna gave a presentation on Fair for All which provided context for the workshops which were scheduled to take place following the meeting. Information was provided on the strategy, pledges and approach to implementation.

4. Welfare Reform Working Group

Greig Robson, North Ayrshire Council, provided a report on the work which has been undertaken by the Welfare Reform Working Group and the key developments which have taken place including the Universal Credit full service roll-out and the emerging devolved Scottish Social Security Agency and system.

The perspectives of a variety of members of the working group were discussed and noted including:-

- the continued partnership working in North Ayrshire has helped with the introduction of the UK full service - DWP;
- a notable increase in the average rent arrears for those receiving full service Universal Credit - NAC Housing;

- concerns around claimants being provided with innaccurate advice by others leading to budgeting issues - HSCP Money Matters; and
- delays in processing claims due to Universal Credit income information not being readily available from the DWP - NAC Revenue and Benefits.

The Chair thanked Greig for his report.

5. Minutes for Information

The Chair highlighted that the minutes of the last round of Locality Partnership meetings and the Fair for All Advisory Panel meeting on 22 August 2018 were included in the agenda pack for information.

The Chairs of the Locality Partnerships highlighted the following points:-

North Coast

- The success of the recent participatory budgeting event and the range of groups who were involved.
- A bid received for Community Investment Fund (CIF) funding from Cycling Without Age.

Irvine

- A bid received for CIF funding for Digital Irvine Officer.
- A forthcoming event which will be used to plan a strategic approach to allocating funding from the CIF.

Kilwinning

- Work which has been undertaken to look at the existing priorities for the Partnership and to consider what new priority work may be appropriate.

Garnock Valley

- CIF funding which has been used to support the Garnock Valley Men's shed.
- Work undertaken by the three subgroups in relation to the Partnership's priorities.

Arran

- The Arran Ideas approach has been used to receive input from wider community groups.
- Preparations are underway for a participatory budgeting event.

The Chair and CP partners commended the progress being made by the Locality Partnerships.

6. AOCB and Next Meeting

Morna spoke about a recent workshop which considered the CPP response to the Local Governance Review consultation. The draft response will be considered by Strategic Management Team and then submitted to the CPP for approval. The Board agreed this approach.

The Chair closed the formal part of the CPP Board meeting.

The next meeting will be held on 28 March 2019 at 11am at Fullarton Connexions.

7. Workshops

Attendees split into groups and participated in three workshops which focused on the Fair for All approach to food, Child Poverty, and North Ayrshire's Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP).

John McKnight and Bruce McMaster led discussions on the Fair for All work in relation to food which focused on local initiatives, links with national developments and the partnership working approach.

Andrew Noble, Regina McDevitt, and Lauren Cameron gave an input on the Child Poverty Action Plan and partners discussed how they feed into the approach.

Yvonne Baulk and Greg Hamill spoke about the North Ayrshire approach to providing high quality sustainable housing.

The key discussion points and actions are available as a supplementary to the minute.

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

19 December 2018

North Ayrshire Council

Title:	Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Investment Programme, Revenue Budget and Rent Levels for 2019/20
Purpose:	To advise Council of the HRA capital investment programme and revenue budget for 2019/20 and the consequential rent levels.
Recommendation:	Agree to: (a) approve the HRA capital investment programme for 2019/20, as detailed in Appendix 1; (b) approve the HRA revenue budget for 2019/20, as detailed in Appendix 2; (c) approve a rent increase of 2.93% in 2019/20 for council houses, garage sites, lock-ups and sheltered housing service charges; and (d) note the indicative rent increases of 3.65% for 2020/21 and 2.50% for 2021/22.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 requires local authorities to maintain a Housing Revenue Account to record all income and expenditure related to the provision of Council houses.
- 1.2 The annual review of the HRA Business Plan was carried out during 2018 to assess the factors expected to impact on the HRA budget. Tenants have also been consulted on the budget proposals included within this report. This has resulted in capital and revenue budgets which deliver: -
 - a capital investment programme which maintains the Scottish Housing Quality Standard and works towards achieving the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (EESH) by 2020;
 - a further 81 new build houses by 31 March 2020 taking the total new builds to 377 units, supporting the delivery of 1,375 units of new build housing at the end of the Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2019-2024;
 - £18.629m of property related expenditure within the revenue account.
- 1.3 In order to meet these commitments the proposed increase to housing rents is 2.93% for 2019/20.

- 1.4 A summary of the anticipated level of earmarked and unearmarked reserves is provided at paragraph 2.28 to the report. Based on the probable outturn for 2018/19 as at the end of September 2018 it is anticipated that the HRA will have reserves of £14.766m at the end of the financial year, of which £1.000m is unearmarked. This equates to approximately 2% which is in line with the approved reserve policy.
- 1.5 Full details of the capital and revenue budgets are contained in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.

2. Background

- 2.1 A Special Meeting of the Council on 20 December 2017 gave consideration to housing rent levels for the three years to 2020/21. Members approved an increase of 2.79% for 2018/19 and noted the indicative rent increases of 2.93% for 2019/20 and 3.65% for 2020/21.
- 2.2 The HRA Business Plan financial model was updated during 2018 to reflect the significantly improved stock condition, together with the potential impacts of Welfare Reform. In addition, the updated plan aligns to the Strategic Housing Investment plan 2019-24 with 1,375 new homes targeted for completion by 31 March 2024. The Business Plan provides assurance of the financial sustainability of the Council's housing stock over the 30 year period it covers.
- 2.3 As part of the annual review of the Business Plan consideration was also given to the following factors:
- Capital and revenue expenditure requirements
 - Council house building targets
 - Inflation
 - Outcome of tenants' consultation
 - Value for Money
 - Future challenges
 - Revenue and Capital balances

Capital and Revenue Expenditure Requirements

Capital

- 2.4 The proposed 2019/20 HRA capital programme of £64.423m is detailed in Appendix 1. As outlined in the appendix, the programme will be funded by a combination of capital funded from current revenue (CFCR), government grants, prudential borrowing, reserves and the affordable housing contribution.
- 2.5 The capital programme will result in the major repair or improvement works to housing stock in 2019/20, including the following:

Programme	No. of properties	
	2019/20	2018/19 Projected
Installation of new double glazed windows	0	86
Roofing and rendering	570	739
Insulated rendering	150	51
Electrical rewiring	215	78
Installation of new kitchens	402	290
New central heating	385	424
Installation of new bathrooms	331	480
Door Entry Systems	48	0

Council House Building

- 2.6 The revised Business Plan reflects the Council's commitment to deliver a comprehensive new build programme with a variety of house types as well as significant investment in housing for older people or those with additional support needs. Details of developments completing or on site during 2019/20 are shown below:

2.7

Project	Number of Units	Status in 2019/20
Watt Court, Dalry	49	Phased Completion
Dickson Drive, Irvine	24	Completing
Ardrossan Road, Seamill	31	Completing
Total Completions	104	
Flatt Road, Largs	122	On Site
St Michael's Wynd, Kilwinning	70	On Site
Brathwic Terrace, Arran	30	On Site
Harbourside, Irvine	80	On Site
St Beya Gardens, Cumbrae	18	On Site
Towerlands PS, Irvine	50	On Site
Springvale Depot, Saltcoats	16	On Site
Dalrymple Place, Irvine	33	On Site
Total on Site	419	
Total	523	

Details of the full Council house build programme can be found in the Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2019-2024 which was approved by Cabinet on 2 October 2018. A total of 1,375 new homes are targeted for completion by the Council by 31 March 2024.

- 2.8 The sheltered housing re-provisioning programme continues to be implemented and in July 2019, work will commence on the remaining two sheltered housing units awaiting refurbishment. Friars Lawn, Kilwinning (22 units) and Garrier Court, Springside (19 units) are due for completion in October 2020.
- 2.9 Following the success of previous years, funding will be available to continue investment in purchasing ex-local authority houses and empty homes. Acquiring these type of properties will help to address both asset management and estate management issues as well as increasing the Council stock numbers.
- 2.10 The capital programme includes investment to ensure the Council meets the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (EESH) which provides clear guidance in relation to the level of energy efficiency each Council owned house requires to achieve by 31 December 2020. Approximately 97% of the Councils housing stock already complies with EESH and energy improvement works such as cavity, wall or replacement central heating are planned for those properties which are not compliant.
- 2.11 The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities requires Councils to demonstrate that capital investment programmes and the level required to be funded by borrowing are affordable, prudent and sustainable. The Key Performance Indicators which demonstrate this is noted below;

Treasury Management Performance Indicators

Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream	2018/19 Estimate	2019/20 Estimate	2020/21 Estimate
HRA	16.9%	17.4%	18.3%

Revenue

- 2.12 The proposed 2019/20 HRA revenue budget is outlined in Appendix 2. Planned expenditure of £49.085m will mainly be funded by rental income and charges for services.
- 2.13 The revenue budget includes funding of £18.629m for property related expenditure in the year. This expenditure will assist the Council in maintaining its efficient and sector-leading performance in respect of management of void properties and planned and responsive maintenance. Additionally, provision has been made for Estate Based

Projects and other areas of estate management such as rear sub divisional fencing and infrastructure improvements.

Outcome of Tenants' Consultation

- 2.14 The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 requires councils to consult with tenants and have regard to the views expressed prior to setting the rents.
- 2.15 In preparing the budget for 2019/20, three options for rent increases were identified by officers and these were considered by the Business Plan Implementation Group in September 2018. The options were subsequently included in the tenants' consultation exercise that took place during October and November 2018, namely to increase rents by either 2.93%, 3.18% or 3.30%. The two higher increase options reflect increased investment in rear sub-divisional fencing to address on-going estate management issues. Further information on the options considered is included within the Rent Matters Newsletter as attached at Appendix 3.
- 2.16 Responses received from the tenants' consultation indicated a 58% preference for option 1, a rent increase of 2.93% for 2019/20. Results from the consultation are included as Appendix 4.

Rent Increase

- 2.17 In order to meet the investment requirements of the 30 year Business Plan, including the Council house building programme; maintaining the SHQS; and working towards achieving the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing by 2020, it is proposed to increase housing rents by 2.93% for 2019/20. The Business Plan indicates anticipated rent increases of 3.65% for 2020/21 and 2.50% for 2021/22.

Value for Money

- 2.18 The Council's average weekly rent is below the Scottish average Local Authority rent for 2018/19 (Council average is £70.15 compared to Scottish average of £72.11). The proposed rent increase for 2019/20 is expected to maintain the Council's position compared with the Scottish average. The Council's average rent is also significantly lower than the average for Registered Social Landlords within North Ayrshire. Details of the weekly rent charges are shown in the table below.

	Average Rent 2018/19
Scottish Local Authority Average	£72.11
North Ayrshire Council	£70.15
East Ayrshire Council	£71.64
South Ayrshire Council	£73.97
ANCHO	£81.23
Irvine Housing Association	£84.07
Cunninghame Housing Association	£85.29

- 2.19 Scotland's Housing Network benchmarks the Scottish Social Housing Charter outcome results of Scottish councils. The results include areas such as housing management performance, repairs and customer satisfaction and value for money. In 2017/18 the Service was once again the highest performing council for both average re-let times and rent lost from empty properties. The Network also confirmed that the Service remains the top performer amongst local authority members in terms of both level of service and value for money.
- 2.20 During the customer satisfaction survey completed in Summer 2018, 92.1% of tenants said that the rent for their property represented good value for money.

Future Challenges

Welfare Reform

- 2.21 The changes introduced by the Welfare Reform Act 2012 have placed pressure on the management of rent collection. Universal Credit, Full Service, was introduced in North Ayrshire Council in November 2017. Like most local authorities who have moved to full service, an increase in rent arrears has been experienced. This is, in part, due to Universal Credit being paid monthly in arrears. The end of year position for 2017/18 was £1.1m, which remains broadly in line with the previous year.
- 2.22 From the arrears, £0.373m is attributed to tenants claiming Universal Credit, an increase of approximately £0.233m from 2017/18 with an additional 723 tenants claiming Universal Credit from the previous year. 875 of the 1,105 tenants claiming Universal Credit at 2017/18 year end were in arrears, with an average debt of £426. This is a reduction in the average debt per Universal Credit claimant of £42 from 2016/17, however, it is still significantly higher than the £201 average overall debt per tenant.

- 2.23 Nonetheless, the Council's performance in rent arrears management is very good. In 2017/18, gross rent arrears as a percentage of rent due was 3.59% (Scottish average was 5.18%). The estimated arrears within the 2018/19 budget assumes full DHP funding continuing to be available for under occupation.
- 2.24 The Welfare Reform Act 2012 poses significant risks to HRA income streams and therefore the HRA Business Plan. Welfare Reforms places a number of pressures on tenants - a high proportion of council tenants are on low incomes, and prior to Universal Credit approximately 58% were in receipt of Housing Benefit. The overall impact once all benefit claimants migrate to Universal Credit is expected to be significant for tenants, the local economy and the Housing Revenue Account. A migration pilot is due to commence in 2019, with full migration due to conclude in 2023.
- 2.25 The Scottish flexibilities to vary the frequency of Universal Credit payments and to make payment of rent direct to landlords has been available now for just over a year. The payment schedule currently used by DWP can delay payments by 5 weeks, contributing to arrears levels.
- 2.26 In order to continue to meet the priorities within the HRA Business Plan it is essential that the risks presented by Welfare Reform and uncertainties around future rental income are addressed. Therefore, £3m continues to be earmarked within the HRA as a contingency to manage the impact of Welfare Reform.

Climate Change and Fuel Poverty

- 2.27 As part of the Council's continued approach to improve domestic energy efficiency and meet Scottish Government targets, a number of actions have been taken including:
- Incorporating Sustainable technologies in new homes
 - Providing energy advice and switching services
 - Delivery of new capital projects generating renewable and / or low carbon energy for the benefit of tenants
 - Retrofit of solar panel systems on up to 500 Council homes
 - Implementation of district heating schemes comprising shared heating from renewable biomass.
 - Partnering with a white label energy supplier, Fairerpower, to provide lower fuel bills for tenants.

Revenue and Capital Balances

- 2.28 The HRA revenue budgetary control report to 30 September 2018, submitted to the Cabinet meeting of 13 November 2018, advised Members of a projected HRA balance of £14.766m at 31 March 2019. This includes an unearmarked balance of £1.000m which equates to around 2% of revenue expenditure. An analysis of the HRA balances is shown in the following table:

	Balance at 31 March 2018	Use of Earmarked Funds	Projected Balance at 31 March 2019
	£m	£m	£m
HRA Not Earmarked	1.000	-	1.000
<u>HRA Earmarked</u>			
Council House Building Fund	7.749	1.139	8.888
Welfare Reform	3.000	-	3.000
Major Refurbishment Works	0.242	-	0.242
Infrastructure Improvements	0.545	-	0.545
Tarryholme	1.091	-	1.091
Total Earmarked Fund	12.627	1.139	13.766
Total HRA Balance	13.627	1.139	14.766

3. Proposals

- 3.1 Council is invited to: (a) approve the HRA capital investment programme for 2019/20, as detailed in Appendix 1; (b) approve the HRA revenue budget for 2019/20, as detailed in Appendix 2; (c) approve a rent increase of 2.93% in 2019/20 for council houses, garage sites, lock-ups and sheltered housing service charges; and (d) note the indicative rent increases of 3.65% for 2020/21 and 2.50% for 2021/22.

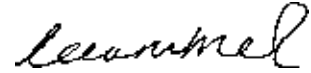
4. Implications

Financial:	The proposed rent increase of 2.93% in 2019/20 will result in significant resources to invest in the Council's housing stock, with total planned revenue expenditure of £49.085m including CFCR of £12.212m supporting a capital programme totaling £64.423m in 2019/20.
Human Resources:	None
Legal:	The Council has consulted with tenants on the proposed rent increases in line with the legal requirement to do so.
Equality:	The investment proposals outlined in the report will ensure the housing stock continues to support the needs of our tenants including those with accessibility issues due to age or disability.
Children and Young People:	The investment in our properties to provide safer, warmer and more fuel efficient homes will impact the health and wellbeing all of our tenants including young people and families.
Environmental & Sustainability:	These proposals support the Council's Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change strategy.
Key Priorities:	Investment through the HRA capital programme and revenue budget supports and links to the following Council Plan 2015-2020 strategic priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Supporting all of our people to stay safe, healthy and active; and ● Protecting and enhancing the environment for future generations
Community Benefits:	None.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Housing Services engaged in a programme of consultation with key stakeholders in order to gather their views of the current service provision and priorities for future service delivery. This engagement and consultation was facilitated in the main, through the Business Plan Implementation Group and the Tenants and Residents Network.

- 52 In addition a Consultation on the proposed rent increases (Appendix 3) was issued to 12,744 Council tenants via the Tenants Newsletter in October 2018. The consultation period ran between October and November and tenants were asked to provide their views on three options for rent increases.



LAURA FRIEL
Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support)

Reference :

For further information please contact Laura Friel, Executive Director
(Finance and Corporate Support) on 01294 324512.

Background Papers

0

North Ayrshire Council Draft HRA Capital plan 2019/20					
Programme Description	2019/20 New programme for Approval	2019/20 Previously Approved	Total 19/20 Programme	2020/21 Consequential	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	No. of Units
Council House Building					
Dickson Drive (Phase 2)	386	1,505	1,891	0	24
Ardrossan Road	4,621		4,621	0	31
Flatt Road	10,500	400	10,900	7,205	122
St Michael's Wynd	3,528		3,528	9,144	79
Brathwic Terrace	1,500	580	2,080	2,417	34
Harbourside (Phase 1)	6,000		6,000	6,564	80
St Beya Gardens	700		700	1,988	18
Towerlands Primary School	1,000		1,000	6,468	50
Springvale Depot	1,000		1,000	1,091	14
Dalrymple Place (Redevelopment)	3,276		3,276	2,269	33
St Colms PI (Redevelopment)	200		200	4,876	35
Friars Lawn (Refurbishment)	947	234	1,181	1,181	22
Watt Court	0	3,533	3,533		48
Kinnier Road	0	172	172		
Council House Build General	0	1,595	1,595		
Refurbishment Schemes	0	128	128		
Connel Court	0	1,243	1,243		
Garrier Court	0	2,074	2,074		
Acquisition of Houses - Open Market	848		848		
Improvements to Existing Stock					
Window Replacement High Flats	0	362	362		
Bathroom Programme	1,061		1,061		
Kitchen Programme	1,375		1,375		
Other Capital Works	6,218	297	6,515		
Central Heating	1,167	41	1,208		
Insulated Re-rendering	1,831		1,831		
Electrical re-wiring	490	(66)	424		
Roofing and Rendering	3,527		3,527		
Energy Efficient Standard	1,276		1,276		
Professional Management Charges	873		873		
	0		0		
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	52,325	12,098	64,423	43,203	
Funded By:-			0		
CFCR	(12,212)		(12,212)	(5,238)	
Council House Build Fund	(1,229)		(1,229)	(1,227)	
Affordable Housing Fund	(193)		(193)	(2,237)	
Capital Grants -House Building	(2,229)	(2,267)	(4,496)	(28,813)	
Prudential Borrowing	(36,462)	(9,831)	(46,293)	(5,688)	
	0		0		
TOTAL INCOME	(52,325)	(12,098)	(64,423)	(43,203)	

Draft HRA Revenue Budget 2017/18		
	Cost Type	2019/20 (£'000s)
<u>Income</u>	Rents: Council houses Other rents Other Income: External recharges Internal recharges	 (48,025) (323) (645) (92)
Gross Income		(49,085)
<u>Expenditure</u>	Employee Costs Property Costs: Responsive repairs Void expenditure Planned & Cyclical maintenance Estate Based Projects Infrastructure Improvements Roads & Lighting Maintenance Aids & adaptations Other property costs Supplies and Services Transport Costs Administration Costs Central Support Costs Payments to Other Agencies, Bodies and Persons Internal Services Capital Financing: CFCR Loan charges House Building Principal repayments Loans Fund interest Loans Fund expenses Revenue interest	4,738 1,790 3,451 7,231 211 357 127 1,849 3,613 227 38 711 2,033 13 2,088 0 12,212 0 2,716 5,618 120 (58)
Gross Expenditure		49,085

RENT MATTERS

PLEASE READ - IT'S IMPORTANT TO HAVE YOUR SAY

Dear Tenant,

We are writing to ask you to take part in this year's rent consultation.

North Ayrshire Council consults annually with tenants on our proposals relating to rent setting, so this is your opportunity to have a say in how much rent you pay.

This year, the rent setting consultation period will run from 15 October until 11 November 2018. We will use the feedback to prepare a report for a meeting of the Council in December 2018, where Elected Members will consider and approve the level of rent increase for Council tenants for 2019/20.

We will write to inform you what your new rent charge will be for 2019/20 at least four weeks in advance of any changes that may occur in April 2019.

Proposals

We are asking our tenants to select their preferred proposal for 2019/20. Details of the three options can be found on page 3 of this leaflet along with ways to return your feedback. Please take some time to consider the proposals and take part in the consultation.

Struggling to pay your rent?

It is important that you pay your rent on time and in full. You should contact your Housing Officer immediately if you are in arrears and have not made an arrangement to clear them.

The Welfare Reform Team can help if you are experiencing financial difficulties, but you must get in touch quickly. Call them on **0300 999 4606**.



**Pay your
rent first**

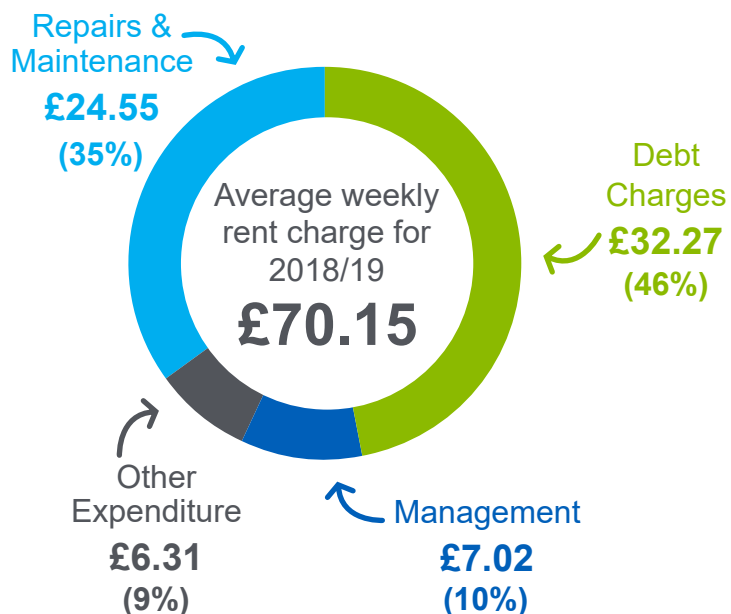
Don't risk losing your home

Everyone pays rent, even if you receive housing benefit, so it is important that we receive feedback from as many tenants as possible.

How do our average rents compare for 2018/19?

North Ayrshire Council	£70.15
Scottish local authority average	£72.11
East Ayrshire Council	£71.64
South Ayrshire Council	£73.97
ANCHO	£81.23
Irvine Housing Association	£84.07
Cunninghame Housing Association	£85.29

How your rent is being spent in 2018/19:



Between April 2018 and March 2019 we plan to have completed:



220

new bathroom installations



230

new kitchen installations



424

central heating system upgrades



51

external wall installations



739

roof/render replacements



78

properties rewired



46

properties with new window installations



£1m

of energy efficiency improvements

We want to consult with you on the proposed annual rent increase for North Ayrshire Council's houses in 2019/20.

Your Views Matter

We have outlined three options for rent charges for 2019/20 below:

Option One Increase rents by 2.93% Average increase of £2.06	Option Two Increase rents by 3.18% Average increase of £2.23	Option Three Increase rents by 3.30% Average increase of £2.32
The planned improvements for 2019/20 would include:	The planned improvements for 2019/20 would include:	The planned improvements for 2019/20 would include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install 331 bathrooms • Install 402 kitchens • Complete 55 new build council houses • Invest £0.338m improving parking, pavements, roads, lighting and fencing • Refurbish one sheltered housing complex • Refurbish 20 units for supported accommodation • Purchase 10 ex-local authority houses to bring into our housing stock 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install 331 bathrooms • Install 402 kitchens • Complete 55 new build council houses • Invest £0.338m improving parking, pavements, roads, lighting and fencing • Refurbish one sheltered housing complex • Refurbish 20 units for supported accommodation • Purchase 10 ex-local authority houses to bring into our housing stock • £0.120m additional spend for rear sub-divisional fencing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install 331 bathrooms • Install 402 kitchens • Complete 55 new build council houses • Invest £0.338m improving parking, pavements, roads, lighting and fencing • Refurbish one sheltered housing complex • Refurbish 20 units for supported accommodation • Purchase 10 ex-local authority houses to bring into our housing stock • £0.175m additional spend for rear sub-divisional fencing

Did you know?

You can view your rent account 24 hours a day, 7 days a week online at the HUB.



Register at www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk

The easiest way to pay your rent is by direct debit

Call today on
01294 324603



Have your say

Our plans and how we spend our budget will have an impact on your home and your community. We want to hear what you think.

Please let us know your views by completing and returning this feedback form to us.

A prepaid envelope is enclosed and one lucky respondent will win £50 of shopping vouchers.

Your rent options for 2019/20

☐

Option One: Increase rents by 2.93%

Average weekly increase of £2.06*

☐

Option Two: Increase rents by 3.18%

Average weekly increase of £2.23*

☐

Option Three: Increase rents by 3.30%

Average weekly increase of £2.32*

*Based on the average weekly rent in 2018/19

Do you have any comments on the options?

Contact Details

Name

Address

Town

Postcode

Telephone

Email

Complete this form and put it into the pre-paid envelope provided. Return your completed questionnaire by **11 November** to make sure your views are counted and to be entered into our prize draw. Thank you and good luck!

Alternatively you can hand the form into your local housing office or complete the online survey at **www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PJVPT7T**

WIN!
£50 Shopping
Vouchers



RENT CONSULTATION 2019/20 – RESULTS

Total number of responses – 652

Percentage of tenant responses – 5%

Option 1. Increase rents by 2.93% - average weekly rent increase £2.06	Delivers base budget	Percentage of Responses 58%
Option 2. Increase rents by 3.18% - average weekly rent increase £2.23	Delivers base budget plus additional £0.120m for rear sub divisional fencing	Percentage of Responses 20%
Option 3. Increase rents by 3.30% - average weekly rent increase £2.32	Delivers base budget plus additional £0.175m for rear sub divisional fencing	Percentage of Responses 22%

