



**North Ayrshire Council**  
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

Meeting of the Council

Wednesday 19 December 2018

Responses to Questions



## Question

- (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.”

## Response

“Section 5.1 of the Council’s Housing Repairs Policy sets out the timescales for fabric repairs being carried out. The Policy has two main categories of repair: (1) emergency and (2) non-emergency repairs.

Emergency repairs are undertaken within 4 hours and non-emergency repairs are carried out, on average, within 7 working days. A repair to an external light is classified as a non-emergency and would be responded to much more quickly than the 60 day maximum timescale which was quoted by the call centre operator to the tenant.

The Repairs Policy allows for repairs to be re-categorised to support the needs of vulnerable tenants, e.g. older people and anyone who has a serious medical condition, where this is brought to the attention of the call handler. In this case the request should have been prioritised by the call centre operator as a next day repair.”

## Question

- (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”?”

## Response

“In my view, a school’s position in a league table does not manage to summarise all aspects of our learners’ achievements.

The league tables simply measure the percentage of leavers who have gained either 3 or 5 passes at Higher grade.

Insight provides a better evaluation of how a school has developed all its students including those young people who are aspiring towards vocational, artistic or other specialised careers as well as SQA performance. When it comes to young people, one size definitely does not fit all.”

## Question

- (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"?

## Response

"The latest North Ayrshire Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy, which was approved by Cabinet in January 2017, sets out a range of actions across five different workstreams. One of these is to work in partnership with government agencies to explore the potential for further electric charging infrastructure throughout North Ayrshire.

I'm pleased to confirm that North Ayrshire already has a robust network of 12 charging points, with installations in each of our localities. Of these 12, eight are categorised as 'fast' 22 kilowatt charging points, and three are 'rapid' 50 kilowatt chargers. The remaining point is a 7 kilowatt standard charger.

The Council has been successful in securing £168,000 of grant funding during the current financial year to support the installation of a further six charging points. Three of these will be 'fast' and three will be 'rapid'. The new points will be located in Ardrossan, Beith, Dalry, Irvine and West Kilbride, and will all be operational prior to the end of March 2019.

Within the Place Directorate Plan, there is a commitment to preparing a North Ayrshire Electric Vehicle Strategy. This strategy will be informed by an in-depth feasibility study which will include recommendations on locations for additional accessible charge points for a range of user groups including domestic vehicles, taxis and private hire vehicles.

Lastly, I can advise that officers are in active discussions with the Energy Savings Trust to explore opportunities for further improvements to the Council's workplace charging infrastructure.

I would be happy to provide any colleague with a copy of the asset register which details the location and type of all of our electric vehicle charging infrastructure across North Ayrshire."

## Question

- (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?”

## Response

Following the Minister’s decision on the mainland port for the Arran and Kintyre ferry service, North Ayrshire Council and Peel Ports Group working with Transport Scotland, CMAL and CalMac have been developing the proposals for Ardrossan. The Client Steering Group were keen to secure early engagement and review emerging thinking with stakeholder and user interests at an early stage. The consultation was progressed in a clear understanding that the proposals outlined would be subject to change. Two events were held. Brodick (23.10) and Ardrossan (24.10)

The event was organised as a drop-in event within accessible local centres. Consultation involved a series of boards and graphic material summarising outline proposals. 192 people attended the events.

The events were advertised by the following:

- Posters in Ferry Terminals
  - Posters on the Brodick /Kintyre ferries
  - Posters in Community Buildings
- Circulation of posters to:
- Stakeholder Groups
  - Community Council
  - Arran Ferries Group
  - Advertisements in Arran Banner / Ardrossan & Saltcoats Herald
  - Web- Social Media Links

Key issues identified included

- The reliability of the ferry service
- Apparent lack of link to the wider transport network from Ardrossan
- The design of the terminal building
- Accessibility issues
- How the service and development would withstand adverse weather conditions
- How the consultation was undertaken

A summary of the feedback from the consultation events will be added to the public website that has been developed to support consultation on the proposals in the new year and all comments will be considered in the design proposals for the Harbour as matters develop. Further consultation will be undertaken in 2019, following technical, feasibility and preliminary design work.”

## Question

- (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?”

## Response

Councillor Burns will respond.

## Question

- (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.”

## Response

“Condition 8 of planning permission ref. 17/01273/PP, which was granted by the Council's Planning Committee on 25th April 2018, stated that a draft code of practice for the operation of the construction, repair and decommissioning of marine structures shall be submitted for the written approval of North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority within three months of the date of the decision (ie. not later than 25th July 2018). This was in the interests of the amenity of the area. The draft code of practice shall include the formation of a liaison committee comprising of local councillors, local community group members, the site operator and other interested parties, and should include the timescales for the meetings of the liaison committee.

Peel Ports contacted Planning Services by letter on 20th July 2018 and advised that there would be a delay in submitting this information. However, Peel Ports then submitted relevant details during Autumn 2018 which set out the proposed draft code of practice. For the avoidance of doubt, the planning condition does not place a time limit for arranging and conducting the first meeting of the liaison committee.

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Peel Ports accepted the terms of the Condition at the Committee and Officers contacted Peel in both July and the Autumn to remind Peel of the need to submit the required details to purify the terms of the condition. Peel did not submit the details until the Autumn, claiming that the operational plan was still in preparation. In accordance with the Council's approved Enforcement Charter, it is considered that resolving the breach through negotiation was appropriate and it was not expedient to take formal enforcement action to require compliance.

It should be noted that non-compliance with Condition 8 did not invalidate the planning permission."

### **Question**

(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 context was her name mentioned and why considering she was present at the meeting was she not allowed to answer on her own behalf."

### **Response**

Councillor Marshall will respond.