

Cabinet  
28 September 2021

At a Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2:30 p.m. involving participation by remote electronic means.

**Present**

Joe Cullinane, John Bell, Robert Foster, Alex Gallagher, Louise McPhater and Jim Montgomerie; and Jackie MacKenzie (Teaching Representative) (Agenda Item 3).

**In Attendance**

C. Hatton, Chief Executive; M. Boyd, Head of Service (Finance) and D. Forbes, Senior Manager (Finance Management); F. Walker, Head of Service (People & ICT) (Chief Executive's Service); R. McCutcheon, Executive Director, C. McAuley, Head of Service (Economic Development and Regeneration), Y. Baulk, Head of Service (Physical Environment), J. McLachlan, Senior Manager (Economic Development & Regeneration), M. Strachan, Senior Manager (Business Support and Development) and R. McGilvery, Senior Manager (Housing Operations) (Place); C. Amos, Interim Executive Director, R. Arthur, Head of Service (Connected Communities), A. Morrell, Senior Manager (Community Learning & Development), L. Forsyth, Senior Manager (Information & Culture) and M. Rae, Senior Manager (Policy, Performance & Community Planning) (Communities and Education); P. Doak, Head of Service (Finance & Transformation) (Health and Social Care Partnership); and J. Hutcheson, Senior Communications Officer, C. Stewart and H. Clancy, Committee Services Officers (Democratic Services).

**Apologies**

Andrew Bruce and Elizabeth Turbet (Church Representatives).

**Chair**

Joe Cullinane in the Chair.

**1. Declarations of Interest**

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

**2. Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 31 August 2021 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

### **3. North Ayrshire Council Strategic Community Learning and Development Plan 2021-2024**

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) on the North Ayrshire Council Community Learning and Development Plan 2021-2024. The Community Learning and Development (CLD) was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the development of CLD Key Performance Indicators (KPI).

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the North Ayrshire Council Strategic Community Learning and Development Plan 2021-2024 as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report; and (b) authorise officers to take forward the Action Plan, with a view to targeting resources to address the identified unmet needs.

### **4. Revenue Budget 2021/22: Financial Performance to 31 July 2021**

Submitted a report by the Head of Service (Finance) on the financial performance of the Council at 31 July 2021. Detailed explanations of the significant variances in service expenditure compared to the approved budgets, together with information on funding to be carried forward to support expenditure during 2021/22 were provided in Appendices 1-5 of the report. Information in respect of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) was set out in Appendices 6 and 7. Information on the HSCP financial performance report as at the end of July 2021 was set out in Appendix 8 to the report.

That Cabinet agreed (a) to note (i) the information and financial projections outlined in the report and its associated appendices, (ii) the current financial projection for the Health and Social Care Partnership at section 2.6 of the report, (iii) the current projected deficit position of KA Leisure; and (b) to approve the virements detailed in Appendix 7 to the report.

### **5. Capital Programme Performance to 31 March 2022**

Submitted a report by the Head of Service (Finance) on progress in delivering the Capital Investment Programme for 2021/22. Information on the progress of General Services and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) projects was set out at Appendices 1 and 2, respectively, to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the revisions to budgets outlined in the report; (b) note the General Services and HRA revised budgets at 31 July 2021; and (b) note the forecast expenditure to 31 March 2022.

### **6. Queen's Platinum Jubilee in North Ayrshire**

Submitted a report by report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) on the proposed approach to marking the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in North Ayrshire.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the proposal for officers to explore the possibility of Irvine obtaining City status, while noting that there was a considerable amount of information already held by the Council which could assist in the event of any bid submission.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the Queen's Platinum Jubilee arrangements, as outlined in the report; (b) approve the approach for community engagement to enable local events to be delivered in communities across North Ayrshire; (c) approve the £25,000 participatory budget from existing Connected Communities' funding for the community led events; (d) approve the proposal to deliver a North Ayrshire wide literacy and arts-based event linked to Scotland's Year of Stories, using existing budgets; (e) authorise officers to explore a potential entry into the UK wide competition for Irvine to seek City status; (f) approve the change to public holidays by moving Monday 30 May 2022 to Thursday 2 June 2022 for those employees that have this as a fixed public holiday and for those that do not, a floating day would be fixed from their entitlement for 2022 only; (g) approve the change for schools on Arran by moving the end of term day from 29 June 2022 to 30 June 2022; (h) approve the additional public holiday for all employees on Friday 3 June 2022; (i) authorise the Head of Service (Education) to write to the Scottish Government to obtain approval for one fewer teaching day; (j) approve the closure of main Council buildings on both Thursday 2 June and Friday 3 June 2022; and (k) receive a further update on progress relating to the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in North Ayrshire at a future Cabinet meeting.

## **7. Community Investment Fund (CIF) Update**

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) on the progress in relation to the Community Investment Fund. The CIF applications which have been approved by the Locality Partnerships and Cabinet along with key achievements to date was set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD), including measures that were being taken by the Locality Partnerships to ensure areas which might miss out on CIF funding were dealt with on an equitable basis going forward.

The Cabinet agreed to note the achievements to date of the initiatives supported by the Community Investment Fund as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

## **8. North Ayrshire Leisure Limited (KA Leisure) Recovery and Renewal Plan**

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) on the progress with the implementation of the North Ayrshire Leisure Limited (KA Leisure) Recovery and Renewal Plan. The KA Leisure Recovery & Renewal Interim Update Report was attached at Appendix 1 to the report with the KA Leisure Health & Wellbeing Service Report being attached at Appendix 2.

The Cabinet also received a presentation from KA Leisure detailing the work undertaken by the organisation to date including their ambitious recovery and renewal plans to take the organisation forward.

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

- proposals to increase membership uptake in leisure facilities over the next 6 months, with particular focus on dealing with the financial position to get them on a firm financial footing; and
- proposals to attract more visitors to the Vikingar! Facility in Largs.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the interim report on North Ayrshire Leisure Limited (KA Leisure) Recovery and Renewal Plan as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report; (b) note the projected deficit position in 2021/22; and (c) authorise officers to continue to monitor and support the recovery.

## **9. Community Asset Transfer**

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) on the transfer of ownership of Pirnmill Community Centre and land to Pirnmill Village Association; and the transfer of ownership of land at Stevenston Shore Front to 'Raise Your Voice with Ardeer'. Location plans showing both areas were attached as Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 to the report, respectively.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) the asset transfer of Pirnmill Community Centre and its land from North Ayrshire Council to Scottish Incorporated Charitable Organisation (SCIO), "Pirnmill Village Association"; (b) approve the recommended terms of transfer on this occasion at 10% of the property valuation of £20,000 (totalling £2000); (c) the asset transfer of land at Stevenston Shorefront between North Ayrshire Council and the Scottish Incorporated Charitable Organisation (SCIO), "Raise Your Voice With Ardeer"; (d) approve the recommended terms of transfer on this occasion at 10% of the valuation of £5,500 (totalling £550); and (e) authorise officers to conclude the associated legal and community asset transfer processes for (i) Pirnmill Community Centre and its land; and (ii) Land at Stevenston Shorefront.

## **10. Community Wealth Building Strategic Annual Report**

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the first Community Wealth Building Strategy Annual Report. The Annual Report, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, reflected on the first year of delivering the strategy – amidst the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic – and highlighted key achievements, progress and examples of how Community Wealth Building action and support was having a positive impact across North Ayrshire.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note, with satisfaction, the progress in delivering the Community Wealth Building strategy; and (b) approve the Annual Report as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

## **11. Hong Kong British Nationals (Overseas) Visa route**

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the Hong Kong British Nationals (Overseas) programme and the support that the Council could offer to visa applicants following this route.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the background to the Hong Kong British Nationals (Overseas) programme; (b) note the support that could be available to visa applicants who arrive in North Ayrshire; and (c) receive a further update in 12 months.

## **12. Islands Infrastructure Fund**

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the anticipated Islands Infrastructure Fund in 2021/22. The Islands Infrastructure Fund Criteria was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to note that a funding award would be forthcoming from the Scottish Government's Islands Infrastructure Fund for 2021/22; (b) to the proposal for the expenditure of this award including (i) Upgrade of the car park at the Mountain Rescue, Centre in Brodick on the Isle of Arran, (ii) Upgrade of a series of lay-bys at strategic locations on the Isle of Cumbrae, (iii) Implementation of a series of recommendations identified by the Islands Connectivity Study; and (c) due to the requirement to financially commit funds by 31 March, 2022 that delegated authority be provided to the Executive Director (Place) to approve amendments to the expenditure proposal, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead Elected Member, as required.

## **13. Covid Business Support Discretionary Fund**

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the agreed Discretionary and Transition Funding support for business and for the proposed awarding of the balance of remaining funds to be dispersed to approved businesses with 1 – 10 employees.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the update on Discretionary and Transition Fund performance; and (b) approve that the residual balance of Discretionary Fund be used to provide a further top up grant of up to £1,700 to those approved businesses with 1-10 employees.

The meeting ended at 3.55 p.m.