

Cabinet
2 November 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; Andrew Bruce, Elizabeth Turbet (Church Representatives) and Jackie MacKenzie (Teaching Representative) (Agenda Item 3).

In Attendance

C. Hatton, Chief Executive; M. Boyd, Head of Service (Finance); 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. Cameron, Senior Manager (Housing Strategy and Development), L. Kirk, Senior Manager (Regeneration); C. Dempster, Senior Manager (Roads) (Place); R. Arthur, Head of Service (Connected Communities) and A. McClelland, Head of Service (Education) (Communities and Education); C. Cameron, Director (Health and Social Care Partnership); A. Craig, Head of Service, I. Hardy, Corporate Policy & Performance Officer; M. Sugden, Communications Officer, C. Stewart and H. Clancy, Committee Services Officers (Democratic Services).

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 28 September 2021 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Education Authority Annual Plan 2021-22

Submitted a report by the Interim Executive Director (Communities and Education) on the publication of the Education Authority Annual Plan for 2021-22. The draft Annual Plan was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

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

- the alignment of performance indicators contained in the Annual Plan to the Council's priorities, including such measures as on attainment, etc.; and
- the requirement to focus on wellbeing areas such as mental health, particularly in view of circumstances caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Cabinet agreed (a) that the draft Education Authority Annual Plan for 2021-22 be aligned to the Council Plan priorities and the National Improvement Framework priorities; and (b) to approve the publication of the plan.

4. Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) 2019-20 Data Analysis (Data Released May 2021)

Submitted a report and presentation by the Head of Service (Democratic Services) on an analysis of the Council's performance within the Local Government Benchmarking Framework. The LGBF 2019/20 Data Analysis was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the range and scope of the data analysis and whether it accurately represented the performance of the Council where it mattered.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the results of the LGBF indicators as at 2019/20; and (b) refer this report to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee for further consideration.

5. Ayrshire Shared British Sign Language (BSL) Local Plan 2018-24: Mid Term Report

Submitted a report by the Head of Service (Democratic Services) on the Ayrshire Shared British Sign Language (BSL) Local Plan 2018-2024 Mid-Term Report. The Mid-Term report was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to endorse the publication of the Ayrshire Shared British Sign Language (BSL) Local Plan 2018-2024 Mid-Term Report as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

6. A National Care Service for Scotland - Consultation

Submitted a report by the Head of Service (Democratic Services) on a response to the Scottish Government consultation on a National Care Service for Scotland. The proposed consultation response was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the proposed consultation response to the Scottish Government Consultation: A National Care Service for Scotland attached at Appendix 1 to the report and that it be submitted to the Scottish Government to meet the response deadline of 2nd November 2021 on the proviso that the response was subject to call-in in accordance with Standing Orders.

7. Covid Recovery: A Consultation on public services, justice system and other reforms

Submitted a report by the Head of Service (Democratic Services) on a response to the Scottish Government consultation on 'Covid Recovery: A Consultation on public services, justice system and other reforms'. The proposed consultation response was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the proposed consultation response to the 'Covid Recovery: A Consultation on public services, justice system and other reforms' consultation attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

8. Proposal for Community Investment Fund (CIF) Expenditure

Submitted a report by the Interim Executive Director (Communities and Education) on an application by the Garnock Valley Locality Partnership to allocate CIF funding to a proposed project. The application was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed, having reviewed, the application from the Garnock Valley Locality Partnership in line with CIF criteria, to approve the CIF application in relation to Café Solace, Garnock Valley in the amount of £49,723 as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

9. Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2022-2027

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2022-2027. The SHIP was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to potential other development sites for consideration and inclusion in the SHIP, particularly island settlements such as Arran.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2022-2027 at Appendix 1 for submission to Scottish Government; and (b) grant delegated authority to the Executive Director (Place), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for the Green New Deal and Sustainability, to liaise directly with the Scottish Government in agreeing the North Ayrshire development programme and the rescheduling of projects, as required.

10. Levelling Up Fund – Round 2

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the UK Government Levelling Up Fund and seeking agreement to officers finalising and submitting an appropriate Round 2 bid based on Commercial Estate Development and associated Low Carbon Infrastructure.

It was noted that since the publication of the report, it had been confirmed that the next round of funding would be open for submissions in Spring 2022 and not Autumn 2021 as indicated in the report. The outcomes of Levelling Up Fund – Round 1 were also noted and particularly, that the bids for Lochshore and Ardrossan North Shore had been unsuccessful, while the bid associated with improvements to the B714 had been successful. Comments on the reasons for refusal relating to the Lochshore and Ardrossan North Shore application were awaited and would be taken into account for submission of further bids.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the sustainable nature of Round 2 bid submissions, particularly Low Carbon Infrastructure and active travel solutions.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note (i) the progress to date on the previously agreed submissions to the Levelling Up Fund and (ii) that officers had continued to develop a potential second round bid with South Ayrshire Council centred on Commercial Estate Development and associated Low Carbon Infrastructure; (b) to the finalisation and submission of a proposed Round 2 bid together with an associated business case, to the UK Government totalling up to £40m with South Ayrshire Council (maximum £20m per Authority); and (c) note that 10% (up to £2m) match funding would be required and which would be met from existing capital resources.

11. 'Scotland Loves Local' Gift Card Scheme

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the 'Scotland Loves Local' Gift Card Scheme and to seek approval to sign the Local Authority Concordat. The Local Authority Concordat was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to existing Gift Card Schemes such as the Arran Gift Card, and it was noted that the 'Scotland Loves Local' Gift Card Scheme was aimed at complementing existing schemes that were already in operation.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the update on the Scotland Loves Local Gift Card Scheme; (b) approve participation in the scheme for the first year at no financial cost to the Council; and (c) approve the signing of the Local Authority Concordat.

12. Roads Winter Service and Weather Emergencies Plan 2021/22

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the Roads Winter Service and Weather Emergencies Plan 2021/22. The Winter Preparation Action Plan and the Roads Winter Service & Weather Emergencies Plan 2021/22 were attached at Appendices 1 and 2, respectively, to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the Roads Winter Service & Weather Emergencies Plan 2021/22; and (b) note the preparations and developments contained in the Winter Preparation Action Plan.

13. Exclusion of the Public

Cabinet resolved in terms of Section 50(A)4 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude from the Meeting the press and the public for the following item of business on the grounds indicated in terms of Paragraph 10 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

14. Montgomerie Park: Proposed Sale of Sites A and B

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on progress following the marketing of Sites A and B and the Heads of Terms which have been negotiated prior to entering missives for the sale of the sites.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the recommendation as detailed in the report.

The meeting ended at 4.00 p.m.