



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

Meeting of the Council

Wednesday 26 June 2024

Responses to Questions

Question

(1) a question by Councillor Hume to the Cabinet Member for Education in the following terms:

“To ask the Cabinet Member if the administration have plans to cut nurture provision in schools from August 2024?”

Response

Cabinet Member to provide a response.

Question

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

“The recent Education report to Cabinet stated that "North Ayrshire Council Education Directorate Data Team sends all 9 Secondary schools their Insight Analytical Data set each year which empowers schools to inspect their leavers' data at a learner level Tariff score”.

Given that very few parents (and even less Members) understand the terms "Insight" and "Tariff" and that the latter is not used as a measure of performance for pupils that enter higher education, whereas the number of Highers achieved is a recognisable measure of performance, can the Member report the percentage of pupils achieving 5 Higher passes in each of our Secondary Schools in the last Academic year. “

Response

“The percentage of North Ayrshire school leavers in session 2022-23 who achieved 5 or more Highers was 23%.

This data is broken down by individual schools as follows:

SCHOOL	PERCENTAGE OF LEAVERS ACHIEVING 5+ HIGHERS (A-C)
Ardrossan Academy	21%
Arran High School	36%
Auchenharvie Academy	11%
Garnock Community Campus	23%
Greenwood Academy	19%
Irvine Royal Academy	9%
Kilwinning Academy	25%
Largs Academy	35%
St Matthew's Academy	28%

It should be noted that this is only one measure of attainment, and that Highers are also not the only SCQF Level 6 qualification. As such, we are expanding our range of qualifications at all levels to ensure they cater for a broad range of skills and aspirations. The Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) reports overall qualifications

achieved at SCQF Level 6. Using this indicator, 35% of North Ayrshire's pupils gained 5+ Awards, which is higher than the LGBF Family Group average of 32%."

Question

(3) a question by Councillor Reid to the Cabinet Member for Green Environment and Economy in the following terms:

"Can the Cabinet Member provide a breakdown of missed brown bin collections in 2023/24 by ward?"

Response

"The Council collects around 5,400,000 bins per annum, of which around 1,740,000 are brown bins.

A breakdown of the missed brown bin collections, on a ward by ward basis for 2023/24 is provided. For context, the number of missed brown bins equates to less than 0.2% of brown bin collections.

Ward Number and Name	No
Ward 1 - North Coast	276
Ward 2 - Garnock Valley	504
Ward 3 - Ardrossan	302
Ward 5 - Saltcoats and Stevenston	439
Ward 6 - Kilwinning	388
Ward 7 - Irvine West	309
Ward 8 - Irvine East	370
Ward 9 - Irvine South	365
Total Missed Brown Bin Cases	2,953

Ward 4 Arran does not have a brown bin collection service due to an island exemption."

Question

(4) a question by Councillor Inglis to the Cabinet Member for Green Environment and Economy the following terms:

"Following the review of North Ayrshire Council's Irvine Estate and the fact that we cannot afford to maintain/retain so many properties in need of investment has been recognised, will the towns of Saltcoats and Stevenston have this review and if so, at what stage in the process will communities via their respective Community Councils be invited to discuss the impact on, and for, their community?"

Response

"Our property estate is constantly under review and further locality reviews will follow. Depending on the context, properties will be considered either in relation to their, use, location, condition, suitability for service delivery, regeneration potential, etc., or a

combination of these. Appropriate engagement will be considered and undertaken on a case by case basis.”

Question

(5) a question by Councillor McPhater to the Cabinet Member for Communities, Housing and the Islands in the following terms:

“How many wheelchair accessible properties does North Ayrshire Council hold in the Irvine locality?”

Response

“North Ayrshire Council currently holds a total of 114 wheelchair accessible properties in the Irvine locality:

- Amenity wheelchair (12 properties)
- General wheelchair (34 properties)
- Sheltered properties which are wheelchair accessible by design (68 properties):
- Alfred Nobel House (28 properties)
- Dalrymple Gardens (24 properties)
- Vennel Gardens (16 properties)

The Council is fully committed to meeting the current and future housing needs of our tenants. A total of 148 (16.8%) of the 885 new Council homes completed across North Ayrshire between April 2013 to March 2024 are suitable for wheelchair users, including 70 in the Irvine locality.

Our Local Housing Strategy 2023-2028 includes an all-tenure target of 10% of new build homes being suitable for wheelchair users – an increase from 7% in the previous LHS - and the approved Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2024-29 reflects this priority.”

Question

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

“Is it not the case that the alleged reduction in poverty attainment gap claimed in the Education Report to Cabinet, is achieved by a reduction in the tariff score by those in SIMD 10 and demonstrates a reduction in excellence at the expense of equity?”

Response

“The Education Service echoes the national ambitions for education of excellence and equity. This means supporting the attainment of all learners across North Ayrshire while also reducing the poverty related attainment gap.

In response to this particular question, out of the total of 1468 leavers in North Ayrshire in 2023, there were only 17 school leavers living in SIMD Decile 10. With such a small group, the variations in outcomes of individual learners can have a disproportionate impact on the average total tariff score. Therefore, caution needs to be applied to how we respond

to such variations. For example, this year the average total tariff score was 1150 for SIMD Decile 10 learners, but we know that there were a small number of pupils within the group whose individual circumstances affected the overall average score.”

Question

(7) a question by Councillor McDonald to the Cabinet Member for Communities, Housing and the Islands in the following terms:

“With Council funding which supports community Christmas lights being cut, can the Cabinet Member outline what, if any, support the Council will now provide to groups who organise Christmas light displays in their community?”

Response

“A list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) is being finalised to assist groups in the planning of Festive Switch On’s and this will be issued to groups week commencing 8 July 2024.

I can confirm Streetscene will continue to store the lights for groups and that Roads Lighting can assist with any technical advice required.

Communities staff will continue to provide capacity building support to the groups and support through the events process will continue as normal.”

Question

(8) a question by Councillor Bell to the Cabinet Member for Education in the following terms:

“After the last meeting, the Cabinet Member for Education told the local press that the re-modelling of the school library service, and I quote, *“came to my attention recently because I got a lot of correspondence through from the campaign to save our school libraries, and from parent councils, and from parents, to say they weren’t happy with the current situation.”*

Can the Deputy Leader of the Council clarify what he meant by that statement – did he not read the budget papers, or did he just not understand them?”

Response

Cabinet Member to provide a response.

Question

(9) a question by Councillor Foster to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:

“With Local Government staff having rejected the COSLA pay offer, is the Council Leader confident that a pay deal will be achieved or are we heading for further industrial action over pay?”

Response

Cabinet Member to provide a response.

Question

(10) a question by Councillor Kerr to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:

“To ask for an update on the Ardrossan Harbour project following the recent Ministerial taskforce meeting?”

Response

“The Ardrossan Harbour Taskforce met on 16 May and the Minutes of the Meeting were published on 19 June. A link to the minute is attached for information.”

[Meeting papers - 16 May 2024 - Ardrossan Harbour Taskforce \(transport.gov.scot\)](#)

Question

(11) a question by Councillor Hume to the Cabinet Member for Education in the following terms:

“Can the Cabinet Member advise if the re-establishment of after school care provision which was outlined at the last Council meeting will be in place in the Kilwinning Locality for the new school year starting in August?”

Response

“Officers are continuing to work with the provider to support them while they progress with the steps required for the proposed new after school care provision in Kilwinning, including registration with the Care Inspectorate. The introduction of the new Childcare Development Officer post is also providing additional capacity to support this provider and to identify any other proposals that can be developed. The support to progress commencement of the new provision is a priority, however, the timescales are dependent on external factors not within the Council’s control.”