



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

Meeting of the Council

Wednesday 16 February 2022

Responses to Questions

Question

- (1) a question by Councillor McMaster to the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care in the following terms:

“The Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care will be aware of the cancellation of the contract at Cooriedoon Care Home. Can he provide me with assurances that the residential nursing care needs of the people of Arran will be met in future?”

Response

“The Health and Social Care Partnership, on behalf of North Ayrshire Council took the difficult decision to terminate the contract with Cooriedoon Care Home due to concerns for some time in relation to the quality of care and support provided and that despite significant support over a period of time there had been no sustained improvement. The priority for the Partnership is to provide and support high quality care services for the citizens of North Ayrshire regardless of where this is delivered, residential care homes support some of the most vulnerable people cared for and we have a responsibility for their safety, wellbeing and welfare.

The transition of residents from Cooriedoon Care home to an alternative place of care is being informed and determined by the preference of individual residents and their families, and as expected the majority of residents wish to remain on Arran. Montrose House, the North Ayrshire Council care home on the island, is a purpose built, modern facility which up until now has been underutilised. The HSCP have secured the appropriate registration from the Care Inspectorate to increase capacity in Montrose House to 30 beds and to provide residential and nursing care supports. As a result no resident will require to leave Arran for alternative care and support following the decision to terminate the contract with Cooriedoon Care Home.

Capacity for nursing and residential care on Arran has been assessed for the immediate and longer term and resources are being put in place to ensure a resilient model of residential care for the island community. The Integration Joint Board has recently invested additional resources in community-based supports on Arran that will ensure people in the community can remain supported in their own homes for longer, including investment in overnight care supports.

Prior to the pandemic, a significant amount of work was undertaken to develop the case for change and the future vision for health and care services on Arran. This is outlined in the Arran Integrated Model, which now forms part of the Caring for Ayrshire programme of work across Ayrshire and Arran. The North Ayrshire HSCP will refresh the Arran model to update in light of recent investment in community-based services and the recent changes in relation to the provision of residential care services and there will be engagement with the local community on the future model as this is refreshed. The updated case will be brought to the North Ayrshire Integration Joint Board at a future date for approval, to ensure we can collectively ensure the delivery of high quality, safe and resilient care services for the Island.”

Question

- (2) a question by Councillor Donald L. Reid to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:

“Under the 1% Framework Agreement, councils in Scotland have committed to allocate at least 1% of council budgets, made up of revenue and capital expenditure, using Participatory Budgeting (PB). Whilst it is for local authorities to decide how to take forward PB at a local level can the Leader advise on the position in North Ayrshire with specific comment on where NAC are in their aspiration to achieve the 1% objective?”

Response

“This information is already in the public domain via a report to Cabinet on 25 January 2022. The Council Plan Mid Year Report 2021/22 advises that 2.63% of our budget is being allocated through Participatory Budgeting.

Participatory budgeting is a democratic way for people to have a direct say on how public money is spent. Mainstream PB can play a central role in collectively defining services, post pandemic, which meet the needs of communities.

The Scottish Government set a target of 1% for the use of participatory budgeting methods in public funds by 2020. North Ayrshire was the only local authority in Scotland to achieve this. The percentage of Council budget directed via participatory methods during 2020/21 was 1.13% which equates to £4,044,679.”

Question

- (3) a question by Councillor Donald L. Reid to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:

“It has been widely circulated in the national press that some £5 billion in taxpayer’s money has been paid in Covid business support grant to fraudsters. Press report also refer to claims that the Treasury rebuffed offers of investigation by the National Crime Agency because of embarrassment over these eye-watering losses. Can the Leader (or other relevant cabinet post holder) advise on the situation in NAC with regard to potential fraud within the Covid business support handouts and comment on any likely investigations into fraudulent claims, highlighting the total spend by NAC during the past 18 months (or other period as figures are available) on such business grant funding and provide any other relevant information on this matter?”

Response

“North Ayrshire Council has delivered £53.5m of financial support to North Ayrshire businesses over the last 18 months via just under 11,000 grant payments. This support covers a number of funds including the:

Contd.

- Strategic Framework Business Fund
- Support for Businesses Grant
- Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund
- Bed & Breakfast Hardship Fund
- December & January Hospitality Fund
- January Hospitality Top-Up Fund
- Brewers Support Fund
- Nightclub Closure Fund
- Furlough Top-Up Grant
- Local Authority Discretionary / Transition Fund
- Support for Taxi Operators

Significant fraud prevention controls were put in place, and the current number of fraudulent grant payments made via North Ayrshire Council is 9 (representing less than 0.1% of all grants processed) from 4 individuals/businesses. These four individuals/businesses made multiple fraudulent claims across a number of local authority areas, and NAC Finance are pursuing the individuals/businesses for repayment of these funds. The sum of these fraudulent claims is £51,000, representing approx.. 0.09% of all such funds administered by North Ayrshire Council.

The £5 Billion figure recently mentioned in the press relates to suspected fraudulent loans obtained from banks via the UK Bounceback Loan Scheme. This scheme provided banks with a UK Treasury loan guarantee for any loans subsequently defaulted on by the Applicants. It is estimated that circa £47 Billion of loan funding has been provided to businesses and individuals via this mechanism.”

Question

- (4) a question by Councillor Stalker to the Cabinet Member for Green New Deal and Sustainability in the following terms:

“The flood prevention works at Dalry commenced on 1st April 2021 and was due to be completed by the 31st August 2021. The due date was then put back to the end of December 2021, and now it has been delayed yet again with a completion date of the 5th March 2022.

Given the distress and disruption to the residents of Dalry can I ask the- Cabinet Member to provide an update regarding the on-going flood prevention works in the Garnock Valley and can he reassure the residents of Dalry that there will be no further delays and that this work will be finished by the 5th March 2022?”

Response

“The Upper Garnock Flood Protection Scheme is a significant engineering project being carried out over a number of locations. Construction works started during August 2020, with the Dalry works commencing in April 2021 as part of the overall Scheme. The total investment of £18.5m into these essential flood protection measures will see tremendous benefits for the local community.

Contd/

The Construction industry has been severely impacted by the global pandemic resulting in significant delays to a large number of projects across the UK. Due to many businesses being forced to close for extended periods of 2020, self-isolation requirements and the subsequent supply chain disruption there has been a massive backlog of work within the sector which had a detrimental knock on effect outwith the Council's control on the Upper Garnock Valley Flood Protection Scheme.

There have also been a number of technical issues to overcome due to the complexity of the works and some unforeseen elements of such deep groundworks.

Whilst we appreciate the concerns of residents regarding the time taken, we are working tirelessly to complete the remainder of the work. Through our dedicated Community Liaison Officer we have kept a constant dialogue with those residents mostly affected by the work in and around Mill Park. For such disruptive work we have had fantastic cooperation from the residents and we very much appreciate the way that local people have supported this project.

The majority of the complex and specialist elements are now completed. The final facings to the wall are now over two thirds complete to the Beith Rd side and the installation of the new Road Drainage has begun. This will allow reinstatement of Beith Rd to begin and the Contractors are fully confident that the road will reopen in early March.

I'd like to thank residents and local people in general for their support and cooperation during the construction of this vital flood protection scheme."

Question

(5) a question by Councillor Donald Reid to the Cabinet Member for Green New Deal and Sustainability in the following terms:

"Following a suggestion from the First Minister, does North Ayrshire have to cut the bottom off any doors in our schools across North Ayrshire to improve ventilation in our classrooms?"

Response

"We are following national guidance in relation to monitoring CO₂ levels in education establishments. The results of this monitoring are continually collated and analysed, and then used to determine if any physical adaptations are required to improve ventilation in any of our teaching spaces.

I can confirm that, where any alterations are required, cutting the bottom off doors will not be one of the options considered as this could affect the fire rating performance of the door."

Question

- (6) a question by Councillor Donald Reid to the Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Green New Deal and Sustainability in the following terms:

“Does cutting the bottom off any doors in any school or workplace effect building regulations? Fire Safety around sealed doors on escape routes being an obvious obstacle amongst other issues of concern if we follow Scottish Government instruction in this regard.”

Response

“As noted in the previous response, cutting the bottom off doors will not be one of the measures we use to improve ventilation if our monitoring results show that physical adaptations are required in a teaching space to improve air flow.

Following analysis of monitoring results, if officers determine that the most appropriate way to increase air flow is by adapting a door, we would achieve this by installing a proprietary air transfer grille.

Fire rated air transfer grilles are available and, if specified, we would ensure that these are designed and installed to comply with any relevant building standards legislation including any fire performance required.”

Question

- (7) a question by Councillor Donald Reid to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:

“Has the Leader of the council met with any Scottish Government Ministers since the last Council meeting?”

Response

Councillor Cullinane will respond.

Question

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

“Stanley Primary School in Ardrossan opened in August 2007. Part of the disastrous advance of its build.

The criticisms, from parents, pupils, staff and local residents, included the fact that the school was simply too small. This criticism was blithely dismissed by the Labour administration.

Contd/

It did not take long for the foresight of everyone but those who built the school to be proven correct. As the school roll increased pupils at the school were soon shunted into huts to be taught. An arrangement that continues to this day. (And an arrangement that was yet another windfall for the private, off-shore organisations that hold the PPP contract.)

Part of the issue was the lack of land in the new school estate as the Labour administration followed up one disastrous decision by another, namely selling the land that was the site of the old school. A decision I opposed at the time but one that was forced through by the Labour administration in concert with their friends. The pupils were thus doubly disadvantaged. Not only are they being taught in huts their play space was severely restricted to accommodate the buildings.

In the years since I have continually sought a resolution to this problem. A problem that was foreseen and one that the administration ignored.

The building of the new Lockhart Campus, a project supported by money from the Scottish Government, offered a potential solution to the problem. The space created by the closure of the James McFarlane school could be utilised to create a new early years space, allowing the primary pupils to be re-integrated into their school, playgrounds to be returned, huts to be removed, and the extra payments to the PPP company ceased.

This solution, so clear to those in Ardrossan, has once again been dismissed out of hand.

It is not too late to address the issue. Will the Administration pledge to fully investigate the opportunity to provide adequate facilities for the children and bring fully costed proposals back to this chamber for decision?"

Response

"Stanley Primary School, since its rebuilding in 2007, has grown to be a key community asset in the area and one which is greatly valued.

The modular accommodation was originally provided to take account of an unusual spike in the birth rates in the Ardrossan area, which affected the school intake from 2014. The school roll peaked in 2018 with 468 pupils, but the roll has reduced each year by 10 to 15 pupils meaning that we anticipate the school roll will reduce to 421 pupils by August 2022 and is predicted to fall further in the period until 2028, based on current information.

Since the last lease renewal for the modular accommodation in 2020, as noted above, the pupil roll has reduced and is projected to remain around current levels for the foreseeable future.

The current class structure at the school requires 16 teaching spaces and this would be the number required based on the roll projections noted above. The main school building at Stanley PS is capable of accommodating 16 classes, as well as the Early Years provision which continues to meet local demand for places.

Contd/

The modular accommodation is leased on a renewable three yearly basis, with the next lease break being in 2023. The service will soon be exploring the potential for this accommodation to be discontinued. This will involve close working with the Head Teacher to ensure that the requirements of all parties are appropriately met.

Based on current information, this will allow all classes to be housed in the main school building and will release the area currently occupied by the modular accommodation to be used as playground space once again.

On this basis, there is no requirement for additional accommodation to be provided at Stanley Primary School.

Question

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

“Can the Leader tell us how much general capital and housing revenue account capital investment has been made in the North Coast Ward since the Labour administration took control of the Council in 2016?”

Response

“The general capital programme includes a total of £8.2million investment across a range of capital investment projects in the North Coast and Cumbraes covering the financial years from 2016 to 2022. A further £52.8m is included in the capital programme covering the years from 2022 to 2031 and includes major investments as part of the Ayrshire Growth Deal, Millport Coastal Flood prevention and Largs Promenade Sea Wall.

In respect of the HRA capital programme investment from 2016 to 2022 totals £24.9m and includes the major Flatt Road housing development in Largs.

A year by year breakdown has been included:

General Fund Capital Expenditure - 2016 - March 2022							
Ward	Actuals 2016-17	Actuals 2017-18	Actuals 2018-19	Actuals 2019-20	Actuals 2020-21	Budget 2021-22	Total 2016 to 2022
8 North Coast and Cumbraes Total	524,086	2,266,663	807,924	791,225	264,287	3,555,482	8,209,667

General Fund Capital Expenditure 2022 - March 2031 - Budget										
Ward	Budget 2022-23	Budget 2023-24	Budget 2024-25	Budget 2025-26	Budget 2026-27	Budget 2027-28	Budget 2028-29	Budget 2029-30	Budget 2030-31	Totals
8 North Coast and Cumbraes	16,039,562	15,594,532	4,266,688	1,400,000	4,000,000	5,000,000	4,000,000	2,500,000	-	52,800,782

HRA Capital Expenditure 2016 to 2022:

Ward	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Total
North Coast and Cumbraes	£-	£-	£1,640,867	£8,529,125	£10,578,787	£4,211,402	£24,960,181

Question

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

“What has been the total value of the Council Tax receipts from newly built and occupied houses both in this Administration and in the previous Administration, as well as the annual total for each of the past 5 financial years?”

Response

“An analysis of council tax receipts across all requested years has been provided for information. This includes £226million council tax receipts covering the years from 2012-13 to 2016-17 and almost £271million from 2017-18 and projected to 2021-22.

	Total In-Year Council Tax Receipts	
		£
2021-22 (Projected)	-	57,692,941
2020-21	-	56,019,831
2019-20	-	54,825,893
2018-19	-	52,007,666
2017-18	-	50,342,090
	-	270,888,421
2016-17	-	46,524,274
2015-16	-	45,800,384
2014-15	-	45,078,268
2013-14	-	44,551,571
2012-13	-	44,140,297
	-	226,094,794

Question

(11) a question by Councillor Marshall to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:

“How many new houses have been granted Planning Permission by the Planning Department in each of the present and immediate past two Administrations?”

Response

“Planning approvals for each administration term are:

2007 –2012	2,123 new homes approved
2012 –2017	1,867 new homes approved
2017 – 31 st January 2022	2,989 new homes approved

The data provided relates to all consents by the ‘Planning Authority’ during the dates stated.”

Question

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

“How many secondary school children in North Ayrshire have received a free laptop or a tablet, and a free internet connection as per the SNP election promises made in May 2021?”

Response

“It is our understanding that the Scottish Government is working to strengthen ICT infrastructure and plans are currently being developed for the distribution of devices across all local authorities. To date no devices have been issued to learners in North Ayrshire as part of the Scottish Government election pledge in their most recent Programme for Government. However, we understand that plans are in development.

Locally, in 20/21 over 2400 digital devices were distributed to children and young people in North Ayrshire. Over 950 of these were provided to secondary aged learners, along with internet connectivity. These devices were funded partly by COVID Recovery funds and partly by the Scottish Government Digital Inclusion Funding. In March 2021, at the annual budget meeting, North Ayrshire Council committed to invest £250,000 per year to provide access to devices and connectivity for online learning and activities. In session 2021-22 we have taken delivery of 1000 Chromebooks which are currently being prepared for distribution. 469 of these are for secondary learners, targeted at S2 pupils.”

Question

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

“To ask the Cabinet portfolio-holder for Education if he thinks the decision to send out the controversial school 'sex survey' unaltered is still the right one?”

Response

“In my opinion Councillors made the correct decision in agreeing to go forward with the Scottish Government’s Health and Well-being Census. The ability for parents/carers to ask that their child can opt out and for the young person to not answer individual questions if they are not comfortable will be made clear in guidance. The process of data collection and security has been approved and a presentation on the Census was given at a recent Parent Councils Chairs meeting where no concerns were raised. The survey will provide information on a wide range of topics which will help guide the provision of services and support for young people going forward.”

Question

- (14) a question by Councillor Ferguson to the Cabinet Member for Green New Deal and Sustainability in the following terms:

“To ask the Cabinet portfolio-holder for Green New Deal and Sustainability what discussions he has had with Scottish Fire and Rescue in relation to SNP proposals to cut the bottom off school doors?”

Response

“I can confirm that I have had no discussions with Scottish Fire and Rescue regarding removing the bottoms from doors, and the earlier answers I have provided on this matter confirm this would not be part of our approach in dealing with any ventilation improvements required in teaching spaces.”

Question

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

“Regarding the site of the former oil and bitumen refinery in Ardrossan on which this Council plans to build two schools and a leisure centre, will the Leader of the Council accept anything less than a guarantee that the site has been 100% cleared of the toxic contaminants we know are in the soil before embarking on building schools and a leisure facility?”

Response

“Extensive site investigations have been undertaken, and a remediation strategy agreed with the Scottish Governments Environmental Regulator SEPA.

The development of former industrial sites is relatively common in the West of Scotland and is a priority of the Scottish Government through their Vacant and Derelict Land Task Force.

The proposed works will ensure that the contaminants which have been present in the site are removed or appropriately treated, and that the site ground conditions are suitable for the proposed use. I would not accept anything less than this.”

Question

(16) a question by Councillor Donald L. Reid to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:

“Applications opened for free bus travel for under 22s in Scotland on 31 January 2022. Can the relevant cabinet holder advise what the current uptake has been in North Ayrshire at this early stage (if figures are readily available) and what steps are being taken by NAC to publicise the availability of this excellent service for young people?”

Response

“The new Scotland-wide Young Persons Free Bus Travel scheme officially launched on 31 January 2022. However, applications were open to eligible young people from 10 January.

As of 8 February 2022, 1207 cards have been issued, of these 1017 applications were made via the online process. For those unable to apply online, there is a manual application process available via email or by phone. Details of this are on our website. Since the launch of the scheme on 31 January 2022, over 3,000 journeys across Scotland have been made by young people with a valid North Ayrshire free bus travel card.

The initial campaign to promote this initiative was low key, both nationally and locally, due to the rising number of covid cases, however as restrictions have eased, the campaigns have increased. The Council has promoted this campaign via our website and all social media platforms, linking in with Youth Services and Schools and specifically targeting and reminding Parents of the applications routes.

The Customer Service Team are currently working with Education to simplify the process which would provide parents with the ability to apply via their school with the verification checks being made against the child’s SEEMiS record. This would eliminate the need for parents to upload and submit supporting documentation which is proving to be a barrier for some.

The Council has received a letter of thanks from the Cabinet Secretary which acknowledges the work that has been done to support the launch of this new scheme. Can I also add my thanks to the Customer Service Team who lead on this new initiative.”

Question

- (17) a question by Councillor Billings to the Cabinet Member for Green New Deal and Sustainability in the following terms:

“As the first tenants are gaining access to their much-anticipated new homes in Brodick it is time to consider what else is being done to address the ongoing housing crisis on Arran. It has long been recognised that the lack of affordable and flexible housing on Arran is a major factor that holds Arran back from reaching its full economic and social potential. Whilst the 34 new social housing units will contribute to the solution, the 2016 North Ayrshire Council (NAC) report commissioned on behalf of The Arran Economic Group recognised that housing is a multifaceted issue and that a range of approaches were needed. NAC’s Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2022 states that ‘the Council is undertaking research to determine locality preferences for housing on the island (Arran)’.

My question to the Cabinet Member for Green New Deal and Sustainability is could he explain what ‘determine locality preferences for housing’ means, and what form will this research take and when will it commence?”

Response

“The North Ayrshire Housing Allocation Policy allows applicants to choose the areas they would prefer for housing. Currently the only choice available for Arran applicants is the whole of Arran. By asking Arran applicants to indicate their locality preferences we will be able to refine demand information for different towns/villages on the island. All North Ayrshire Housing Register applicants who stated a preference for Arran are being contacted individually by telephone. They are being asked to indicate what towns/villages on the island they would prefer.

The telephone survey started in January. When this review is complete, and all 34 applicants have moved into the new development at Brathwic Terrace, this information will be utilised alongside demand information from the North Ayrshire Housing Register to determine the level of housing need on the island and will identify which Arran localities are most in demand. This will thereafter be utilised to inform the investment which will be considered within the forthcoming Strategic Housing Investment Plan for 2023-2028.”

Question

- (18) a question by Councillor Murdoch to the Cabinet Member for Green New Deal and Sustainability in the following terms:

“Does the Cabinet Member think the Traffic Management Plan for Largs Campus needs reviewed, updated and implemented in a way that helps pedestrians, motorists and residents?”

Response

“As part of the Campus project a traffic management plan was prepared and various measures were put in place such as parking restrictions and a new pedestrian crossing on Alexander Avenue. There were a few reported concerns following the opening of the Campus in 2018 and each of these concerns were investigated by our Roads Service in conjunction with Police Scotland. Issues identified were typical of most schools with poor and inconsiderate parking behaviour being the main issue. There have been no recent concerns raised in relation to the traffic management at the Campus and there are currently no further traffic management measures proposed. However the Road Safety Officer will contact the Campus to discuss any local concerns that may have been brought to their attention.”

Question

- (19) a question by Councillor Murdoch to the Cabinet Member for Green New Deal and Sustainability in the following terms:

“Can the Cabinet Member please provide the figures related to the allocation of new housing at Flatt Road in Largs:

- (i) How many of the new properties were allocated to Largs Residents?
- (ii) How many properties were allocated to North Coast Residents?
- (iii) How many properties were allocated to North Ayrshire Residents?
- (iv) How many properties were allocated to people from outside North Ayrshire?”

Response

“I can confirm 100 properties have been let to date.

- (i) How many of the new properties were allocated to Largs Residents? 63
- (ii) How many properties were allocated to North Coast Residents? – 74
- (iii) How many properties were allocated to North Ayrshire Residents? – 97
- (iv) How many properties were allocated to people from outside North Ayrshire? – 3”

Question

- (20) a question by Councillor Murdoch to the Cabinet Member for Green New Deal and Sustainability in the following terms:

“Can the Cabinet Member please provide a specific date for the introduction of DPE (Decriminalised Parking Enforcement)?”

Response

“The introduction of Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE) follows a statutory process and must be approved by the Scottish Parliament. This has unfortunately been delayed due the COVID pandemic. Officers are working with Transport Scotland to progress North Ayrshire’s application for the introduction of DPE and car parking charges. Due to the statutory processes involved and potential for delays it is not possible to confirm an exact date for the introduction of DPE at this time, however Officers are continuing to follow the required process and will ensure further progress updates are regularly provided to Elected Members.”

Question

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

“When will North Ayrshire Council consistently enforce and take action against Fly Tipping, Littering, Dog Fouling, Feeding Seagulls, Organic & Chemical Discharges & Emissions into the atmosphere and the coastal waters, etc?”

Response

“The Streetscene Operational service area is responsible for enforcement of littering, fly-tipping and dog fouling offences. Our internal bespoke prevention initiatives include an anti-roadside litter campaign and the OB-litter-ATE campaign to address lunchtime litter issues at schools. There is also significant and effective partnership working with colleagues in Housing Services and Waste Services to reduce potential offences as well as the provision of support to our ever-growing numbers of volunteers keen to help litter pick in their local areas. Our teams are active members of national campaigns, working in partnership with service providers such as Police Scotland, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Keep Scotland Beautiful and Zero Waste Scotland. Examples of this partnership approach are the successful Operation moonbeam – Safer shores initiative – My beach your beach.

Our enforcement techniques are well established and considered sector leading, with neighbouring local authorities often consulting with our officers to help improve their existing procedures. Officers actively patrol areas of concern. A slight increase in fixed penalties issued was evident during lockdown however this is now stabilising - figures are detailed in the table below:

Fixed penalties	
Year	Number of penalties
2017 - 18	237
2018 - 19	217
2019 - 20	181
2020 - 21	331
2021 - 22	262

The Enforcement Team can currently challenge those who feed gulls as the legislation that covers littering states litter can be considered as any item that is thrown down, dropped, or otherwise deposited. The enforcement team would in the first instance have a discussion with individuals on an educational basis and only if that was not heeded move to issuing of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

I can also confirm that the relevant authority with statutory powers in relation to chemical discharges and emissions into the atmosphere and coastal waters is SEPA. I can confirm that in the past and where required the Council has and would work with SEPA to assist them in relation to any environmental crime or discharge of emissions into the atmosphere or coastal waters.”