



North Ayrshire Council  
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

# LEADER'S REPORT

For the period covering: 10 December 2018 – 4  
February 2019

The attached report gives a summary and brief details to Council, of meetings and events attended by the Leader of North Ayrshire Council, Councillor Joe Cullinane.



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## ***OFFICIAL OPENING OF WEIRSTON HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, 13 December***

On 13 December, I attended the official opening of the Weirston Housing Development in Kilwinning. The Weirston Road Housing Development has been jointly funded through Housing Association Grant funding provided by the Scottish Government (£4.5m) and by Cunninghame Housing Association (£3m) and has enabled the delivery of 64 properties in total for rent. This includes:

- 2 and 3 bedroom general needs houses
- Amenity cottage flats for older and less mobile residents
- And 2 houses specifically designed for those requiring wheelchair access
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Thanks to excellent work between the main contractor, CCG Scotland Ltd, and also the Design Team – MAST Architects, TCS Construction (Surveyor and Principal Designer) and Clancy Consulting (Engineer), they have delivered a cost efficient and modern design that has incorporated the needs and requirements of our older community.

However, not only has this project delivered some outstanding future homes but it has also managed to deliver a robust programme of community benefits, the main one being the recruitment and training programme run by the contractor CCG Scotland Ltd, who have provided new opportunities for 3 young people, to train and learn new skills with this particular project.



**Leader of NAC Councillor Cullinane and Councillor Donald Reid with Frank Sweeney Chief Executive of Cunninghame Housing Association(CHA) and other CHA colleagues**

### ***COSLA CONVENTION, 14 December***

I attended the COSLA Convention on 14 December held in Dumfries House, East Ayrshire. Leaders discussed a range of issues including the Local Governance Review, a review of the Year of Young People and a report on achieving gender equality in Local Government. The promotion of gender equality in Local Government is one of the key priorities for COSLA and Leaders discussed some of the recommendations that were forthcoming from the recent gender equality conference that was held in November 2018 and various campaigns that looked at supporting more women into politics.

COSLA will now look at securing funding to enable them to take forward actions from the Gender Equality conference including the establishment of a group which will look at the barriers



preventing women getting elected to office. The group will also look at a possible mentoring scheme for women which may include a cross party Women's forum to provide peer support to others.

### ***NETWORKING BUSINESS LUNCH, 17 December***

On 17 December I attended a business networking lunch at the Gales Hotel. This lunch provided the opportunity to demonstrate to possible future investors, what North Ayrshire can offer and what we can deliver through our wide network of contacts, highlighting the successful Team North Ayrshire approach.

It is hoped that over the coming years we are able to draw more major investment to our area and provide a much needed boost to our local economy.

### ***BURGH WELFARE COMMITTEE DINNER, 10 January***

I was pleased to be invited along to the Burgh Welfare Committee dinner and social event on 10 January at the Dalgarnen hotel in Kilwinning. It was a lovely evening spent talking to some of the Committee members, their families and friends.

### ***AYRSHIRE GROWTH DEAL RECEPTION, 15 January***

On 15 January, the 3 Ayrshire Council Leaders and Chief Executives were invited to a reception in Whitehall hosted by the Secretary of State for Scotland, David Mundell. The reception was also attended by other politicians and partners who have been involved in delivering our much anticipated Ayrshire Growth Deal.

I am pleased to say that we are now in the final stages of concluding this deal, after months of hard work. The £300 million package of public sector investment will deliver key projects in Ayrshire and will include an International Contemporary Arts and Sky Park at the Big Idea in North Ayrshire as well as a Centre for Low Carbon Energy and Circularly Economy at Hunterston.



**Ayrshire Council Leaders, Chief Executives, business partners and politicians at the Ayrshire Growth Deal reception held in Dover House, Whitehall on 15 January.**

### ***COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING WORKSHOP, 16 January***

On 16 January, I attended a Community Wealth Building workshop in London facilitated by Neil McInroy from the Centre for Local Economic Strategies.

Community Wealth Building recognises that places do not necessarily need to attract new wealth to grow economically and socially. Instead they need to harness existing wealth which comes through, among other things, their anchor institutions, procurement spend, complementary currencies, banking practices and community businesses. Harnessing the wealth more effectively will bring economic, social and environmental benefits for communities.

### ***SPORT SCOTLAND GOLD AWARD FOR BLACKLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL, 18 January***

It was a great day at Blacklands Primary school on the 18 January when they received their Gold award from Sport Scotland. They school has been doing so much work with our excellent North Ayrshire Active Schools team and this award was much deserved. Congratulations to all those involved especially all the pupils.



### ***COSLA LEADERS, 25 January***

I attended COSLA Leaders on 25 January, where Leaders discussed a range of subjects including the Local Governance Review, the draft Budget for 2019-20, Brexit and the Children and Young People's Mental Health Task Force.

It is clear from discussions on the Children and Young People's Mental Health Task Force, that there is concern that the task force becomes too focused on clinical models and proposed solutions which are traditional and that there is a real need for increased focus on prevention remembering that young people's mental health is influenced by many aspects of their life, one of these being poverty.

### ***OFFICIAL OPENING OF DICKSON COURT, 29 January***

I was delighted to attend the official opening of Dickson Court sheltered housing unit in Beith. I am very proud that as a Council, North Ayrshire is committed to caring for our older residents and providing them with homes which are second to none. This latest sheltered housing redevelopment saw us invest £1.9 million to refurbish 20 homes, as well as creating 2 new homes. This is part of our overall aim to ensure people can live independently at home, for as long as possible, as well as providing homes which meet the needs and aspirations of local people.

### ***VISIT BY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SCOTLAND TO AYRSHIRE, 31 January***

On 31 January, I joined the Leaders from East and South Ayrshire, together with our respective Chief Executives and other representatives from the Ayrshire Growth Deal team to welcome the Secretary State for Scotland, Davide Mundell MP, to Kilmarnock.

While visiting the HALO site in Kilmarnock, Mr Mundell confirmed the financial package agreed by the UK Government which will form part of the total funding for our Ayrshire Growth Deal. It is expected that the Scottish Government will confirm similar levels of funding in the coming weeks.

The Deal will bring a much needed boost to the Ayrshire economy and improve local infrastructure potentially creating up to 13000 job and bring in the region of £2billion investment to the area.



It is hoped that “Heads of Terms”, a legal binding document will be signed with the two governments in March meaning that work can officially begin.

### ***DISABILITY INCLUSIVE = CONFIDENT EMPLOYERS (DICE) EVENT, 1 February***

On 1 February I opened the DICE event which was held at Saltcoats Town Hall. (DICE stands for Disability Inclusive = Confident Employers) and is a partnership of local agencies and employers across Ayrshire looking to inform and support local business on issues related to disability and employment.

The prime objective of Ayrshire DICE is to facilitate a change of employer attitudes and behaviours towards disability to initiate changes to policy and practice to create a more positive environment for new and existing employees.

North Ayrshire Council has a strong commitment to getting more disabled people into work. We are already an accredited “Disability Confident” employer and would encourage as many employers as possible in North Ayrshire to open up more opportunities for disabled people.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Cullinane". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Councillor Joe Cullinane  
**Leader North Ayrshire Council**