

Cabinet
27 September 2022

IRVINE, 27 September 2022 - At a Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m.

Present

Marie Burns, Scott Davidson, Margaret Johnson, Christina Larsen, Shaun Macaulay, Andrew Bruce, Elizabeth Turbet, Rev Mark Goodman (Church Representatives) and Jackie MacKenzie (Teaching Representative) (Agenda Items 1 – 7).

Also Present

Cameron Inglis, Davina McTiernan and Chloé Robertson.

In Attendance

R. McCutcheon, Executive Director (Place); A. Sutton, Executive Director, C. Amos, Head of Service (Education), Andrew McClelland, (Head of Service (Education) and R. Arthur, Head of Service (Connected Communities) (Communities & Education); C. Cameron, Director (Health and Social Care Partnership), S. Hunter, Chief Social Work Officer and P. McArthur, Senior Manager (Addictions) (Health and Social Care Partnership); M. Boyd, Head of Service (Finance), F. Walker, Head of Service (People & ICT), D. Forbes, Senior Manager (Finance Management), L. Miller, Senior Manager (Audit, Fraud, Safety and Insurance) and J. Walls, Team Manager (Health & Safety) (Chief Executive's Service); R. Lynch, Senior Manager and L. Taylor, Team Manager (Legal Services), M. Sugden, Communications Officer, I. Hardy, Team Manager (Policy and Performance), H. Clancy and A. Little, Committee Services Officers (Democratic Services).

Apologies

Tony Gurney and Alan Hill

Chair

Marie Burns in the Chair.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 23 August 2022 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 11 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

3. Education Service Standards and Quality Report 2021/22

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) on key progress towards the Education Service Improvement Priorities and the National Improvement Framework Priorities for session 2021-22. The Education Service Standards & Quality Report 2021/22 was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

Members asked a question and were provided with further information in relation to the improvement in attainment and the additional measures put in place to support this:-

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the content of the report and (b) approve the publication of the report.

4. Education Service Improvement Plan 2022-23

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) seeking approval for the statutory Education Service Improvement Plan for 2022-23, in the context of the National Improvement Framework. The Education Service Improvement Plan 2022/23 was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the content of the Educational Service Improvement for 2022–23 plan set out at Appendix 1 to the report; and (b) approve the publication of the plan.

5. South West Educational Improvement Collaborative (SWEIC) Report and Plan 2022-23

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) on progress made towards the SWEIC Plan in 2021-22 and present an updated SWEIC Plan for 2022. The SWEIC Report 2021/22 and SWEIC Plan 2022/23 were set out at Appendices 1 and 2, respectively, to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the progress outlined in the 2021-22 annual SWEIC report set out at Appendix 1 to the report; and (b) approve the draft SWEIC Plan for 2022-23 set out at Appendix 2, for submission to Scottish Ministers.

6. Kilwinning Early Years Centre

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) to carry out a Statutory Public Consultation on the proposal to close Kilwinning Early Years Centre to allow its incorporation into Pennyburn Primary School as an early years class.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the proposal to carry out a Statutory Public Consultation on the proposal to close Kilwinning Early Years Centre to allow its incorporation into Pennyburn Primary School as an early years class.

7. North Ayrshire Council Strategic Community Learning and Development Plan 2021-2024 Year 1 Progress Report

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) providing an update on the North Ayrshire Council Strategic Community Learning and Development Plan 2021-2024 through the Year 1 Progress Report. The North Ayrshire CLD Strategic Plan 2021/2024 - Year 1 Progress Report and North Ayrshire CLD Plan (September 2021/24) were set out at Appendices 1 and 2, respectively, to the report.

The Cabinet (a) reviewed the North Ayrshire CLD Strategic Plan 2021-2024 Year 1 Progress Report set out at Appendix 1 to the report; and (b) authorise officers to take forward the second year of the Action Plan, with specific regard to addressing the identified unmet needs.

8. Revenue Budget 2022/23: Financial Performance to 31 July 2022

Submitted a report by the Head of Service (Finance) on the financial performance for Council at 31 July 2022. 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 2022/23 were provided in Appendices 1-4 of the report. A full list of the proposed carry forward of earmarked funds was set out at Appendix 5 to the report. Information in respect of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) was set out in Appendices 6 and 6a to the report. Information on the IJB financial performance was set out in Appendix 7 to the report.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the impact on rising costs of borrowing and the increase reversal of National Insurance.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note (i) the information and financial projections outlined in the report and its associated appendices and (ii) the latest financial projection for the Health and Social Care Partnership highlighted at 2.6 of the report; and (b) approve (i) the earmarking of £0.486m identified at section 2.5 of the report to meet future year commitments and (ii) the virements detailed at Appendix 7 to the report.

9. Capital Programme Performance to 31 March 2023

Submitted a report by the Head of Service (Finance) on progress in delivering the Capital Investment Programme for 2022/23.

The Cabinet agreed to note (i) the revisions to budgets outlined in the report, (ii) the General Services and HRA revised budgets at 31 July 2022, and (iii) the forecast expenditure to 31 March 2023.

10. Health and Safety Annual Report 2021/22

Submitted a report by the Head of Service (Finance) providing an update on the Health and Safety performance within Council Services during 2021/22.

The Cabinet agreed to note (i) the Annual Health & Safety Performance update for 2021/22 and the comparison against 2019/20 and 2020/21, and (ii) the response to the COVID Pandemic and the delivery of a COVID safe election.

11. Determination of the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ) for Hunterston A and B Nuclear Power Stations

Submitted a report by the Head of Service (Democratic Services) on the extent of the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ) for Hunterston A and B Nuclear Power Stations, under the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2019 (REPPiR).

The Cabinet agreed to (a) determine the DEPZ for Hunterston A as 0km, recommended by the Operator; and (b) determine the boundary of the DEPZ for Hunterston B to 1.08km and to be extended to utilise the natural roads and topography, as shown delineated in blue on the plan set out at Appendix 4 to the report.

12. Year End Performance Reporting: Council Plan Year End Progress Report 2021-22, Annual Performance Report 2021-22 and Local Government Benchmarking Framework Report 2020-21

Submitted a report by the Head of Service (Democratic Services) on the progress of the Council Plan priorities. The Council Plan Year End Progress Report and supporting performance measures were set out at Appendices 1, 2 and 3 of the report. The Council's Annual Performance report and the 2020-21 Local Government Benchmarking Framework report were set out at Appendices 4 and 5 of the report, respectively.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the Care at Home workforce and the intensive recruitment programme.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve (i) the Council Plan Year End Progress Report and supporting performance measures as set out at Appendices 1, 2 and 3 to the report, (ii) the Council Plan Annual Performance Report as set out in Appendix 4 to the report; and (b) note (i) the status of the Council's performance indicators with the 2020-21 Local Government Benchmarking Framework report set out at Appendix 5 to the report, and (ii) refer the report to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee for further consideration.

13. North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership and Alcohol and Drug Partnership Implementing Medication Assisted Treatment Improvement Plan

Submitted a report by the Director (HSCP) on the implementation of new Medical Assisted Treatment Standards and to endorse the North Ayrshire Medical Assisted Treatment Standards Improvement Plan.

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

- people with lived experience; and
- the pressures within Primary Care and the impact this may have.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) endorse the Medical Assisted Treatment Standards Improvement Plan and (b) note the obligations placed on Chief Officers and Chief Executives in relation to governance and accountability.

14. Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report

Submitted a report by the Director (HSCP) on the Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report, as required by the Scottish Government's Guidance. The Annual Report was set out in the appendix to the report.

Members asked a question and were provided with further information in relation to the health and wellbeing of employees.

The Cabinet agreed to note (i) the contents of the report and its appendix, and in particular the successes and challenges contained therein and, (ii) the skilled and compassionate interventions of practitioners and managers.

15. Community Investment Fund (CIF) Update

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) on progress in relation to the Community Investment Fund.

The Cabinet agreed to note the achievements to date in terms of the initiatives supported by the Community Investment Fund.

16. Blair Road, Kilwinning (site for former Hazeldene Centre)

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the options appraisal carried out on potential development options for the vacant site at 1 Blair Road, Kilwinning. The Site Plan, Options Appraisal, and Site Considerations were set out at Appendices 1,2 and 3, respectively, to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve a feasibility study be undertaken to establish the viability of entering into a partnership to develop an Eco Village on the site, (b) receive a further update report on the findings of the feasibility study at a future meeting; and (c) note (i) the details of the options appraisal carried out, and (ii) that the feasibility study would review potential partnership arrangements, specialist partner interest, most effective financial model, likely timescales and outcomes that would be achieved.

The meeting ended at 4.30 p.m.