



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

North Ayrshire Council

A Meeting of North Ayrshire Council will be held remotely on **Wednesday, 31 March 2021** at **14:00** to consider the undernoted business.

Arrangements in Terms of COVID-19

In light of the current COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting will be held remotely in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003. Where possible, the meeting will be live-streamed and available to view at <https://north-ayrshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>. In the event that live-streaming is not possible, a recording of the meeting will instead be available to view at this location.

1 Apologies

2 Declarations of Interest

Members are requested to give notice of any declarations of interest in respect of items of business on the Agenda.

3 Previous Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 17 February 2021 and the Special Meeting held on 4 March 2021 will be confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7(1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (copies enclosed).

4 Provost's Report

Submit report by the Provost covering the period 8 February - 21 March 2021 (copy enclosed).

5 Leader's Report

Submit report by the Leader of the Council covering the period 8 February 2021 - 21 March 2021 (copy enclosed).

6 Minute Volume (issued under separate cover)

Submit, for noting and for approval of any recommendations contained therein, the Minutes of Meeting of committees of the Council held in the period 14 September 2020 - 12 March 2021.

7 Questions

In terms of Standing Order 12, submit:-

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

"Beith is often described as the last outpost in North Ayrshire being less than 1 mile from the Renfrewshire border.

The town has suffered disproportionately from the closure of shops and businesses. On 31 January 2021 there were a total of 19 shops and other business premises which had been closed for some time.

It is not without significance that Beith, unlike its near neighbours Dalry and Kilbirnie and other North Ayrshire towns, has no North Ayrshire Council offices, other than the part-time library in Main Street, to help sustain and bolster the local economy.

Although the library is part-time, it is a valued local facility and houses many other voluntary services which benefit the community.

If current plans go through, as seems likely, it looks as if the library will be transferred to Beith Community Centre.

Removing this valued modern facility which is disabled-friendly throughout, from Main Street will be another nail in the coffin of Main Street.

The public are very disappointed at the prospect of losing the library, a valued community services from this central location and once again feel forgotten. I certainly don't want our wonderful library building to become No. 20 in shop and business closures in Beith and neither do local residents.

Will the Leader and Cabinet colleagues consider the genuine economic plight of Beith; examine all possible ways of retaining this vital facility as the beating heart of Main Street; in so doing give the people of Beith and District some reassurance that North Ayrshire Council is genuinely listening, caring and responsive to Beith's social problems and the wishes of its people?"

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

“Can the Cabinet Member advise of the number of anti-social neighbour issues dealt with by the NAC Anti-social team in:

Kilbirnie, Dalry And Beith, during each of the two years viz: 2019 & 2020; also if figures are readily available, how many of the anti-social neighbours were ultimately rehoused elsewhere during that same period.”

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

“Will the Leader provide Members with a breakdown of the unitary charge payment of 13,618,155 million pounds in respect of PPP funded schools as agreed in the budget of 2021/22 (the finance lease creditor payment, the finance lease creditor interest, the lifecycle maintenance profile, the contingent rentals and the cost of services)?

Will he also inform Members of the Lease interest as a percentage of the total unitary charge?”

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

"Pupil Equity Funding has provided targeted support for children and young people affected by poverty to achieve their full potential. North Ayrshire Council has received Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) for five years from 2017 at approximately £4.5m per year and as a result has managed in some instances to reduce the Attainment Gap between pupils in SIMD 1&2 and SIMD 3-10. A welcome initiative.

Given that this Academic year has been a lost year of schooling:

a. what proposals does the Portfolioholder have to ensure that the gains achieved by PEF are not lost for pupils in SIMD 1&2; and

b. what measures will be put in place to reverse the decline in standards of literacy and numeracy for all pupils.”

(5) a question by Councillor Murdoch to the Chair of the Planning Committee in the following terms:

“Can the Chair of Planning please explain why the planning permission for the Caisson Gates, Jetty Extension and Decommissioning Site at Hunterston Parc are not Null and Void?”

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

“What have North Ayrshire Council done to improve and protect the environment since declaring a Climate Change Emergency?”

(7) a question by Councillor Billings to the Cabinet Members for Health and Social Care in the following terms:

“At the meeting of the full council on 4th March 2021 I proposed that £285,000 was passed to the North Ayrshire’s Health and Social Care Partnership to enable them to establish a community based mental health initiative specifically to address the rise in mental health issues due to the Covid restrictions. However, my proposal was not supported and the money was allocated to the Investment Fund for some as yet undefined future project. At last week’s meeting of North Ayrshire’s Integration Joint Board we agreed the HSCP budget for the coming year. It was clear that the HSCP is very tight for money and will be using over £1million of its reserves to balance its budget, and it was clear that there was no spare money to bring forward a community-wide mental health initiative. Does the Member now regret his decision not to support the HSCP to develop its community mental health service that would address our current health crisis?”

8 Motions

In terms of Standing Order 13, submit:-

(1) a motion by Councillor Murdoch, seconded by Councillor Hill, in the following terms:

"North Ayrshire Council calls on the Marine Accident Investigation Branch/Health & Safety Executive to carry out a full investigation into the incident on Tuesday 2nd February 2021 at Hunterston Parc where DS4 & DS8 broke free from their secure attachment to the Jetty.

Such an investigation should consider both the health & safety implications of the incident and the suitability of the Pier/Jetty and associated infrastructure for the permanent mooring of vessels of this size or type both now or in the future."

(2) a motion by Councillor Marshall, seconded by Council Ferguson, in the following terms:

"The Council delivery plan which forms part of our strategic planning approach has helped to lay the foundations to counter the centralising approach of the Scottish Government towards local government, which has resulted in North Ayrshire being one of the lowest funded councils over the last decade.

We are concerned that this ongoing situation is having a detrimental impact on the Council's ability to provide important public services for our citizens both now and in the future. We note that Pauline McNeill, Scottish Labour's local government spokeswoman, has pointed out that research shows that the Scottish Government has cut Council's non-ringed revenue funding by £973.3m in real terms between 2013-14 and 2021-22

In order to look at alternatives to ensure North Ayrshire can reach its full potential we suggest that the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Scotland asking him if the UK government would consider dealing directly with COSLA and North Ayrshire Council in considering allocating grant funding, to ensure that North Ayrshire Council receives its fair share of funding.

The UK Treasury's "broad shoulders" has meant that

a an additional £13.3 Billion had been delivered to support Scottish public services through the crisis. The UK Government's furlough and self-employment support schemes had protected more than 930,000 Scottish jobs while some £3.4 Billion in loans had helped over 90,000 Scottish businesses

b. funding has enabled the research and production of a number of vaccines which have enabled 2m Scots to be vaccinated – an amazing feat by scientists.

c . a "Levelling up Fund" has been set up. This will enable structural funds to be distributed directly to Local Authorities - which would be devolution in its truest sense.

This last point was promoted by the Chancellor in the Budget when he announced the UK Government's "Levelling Up Fund" whereby over the next 4 years there will at least £800m available for investment, in the devolved nations, in local infrastructure that has a visible impact on people and their communities. This offers North Ayrshire Council a unique opportunity to fund regeneration and town centre investment.

Economic differences remain between different parts of the UK, including our cities, ex-industrial towns, and rural and coastal communities. These economic differences have real implications: they affect people's lives

through their pay, work opportunities, health and life chances. Tackling these economic differences and driving prosperity as part of 'levelling up' left behind regions of the UK.

Bids are welcome for regeneration schemes and town centre investment to upgrade eyesore buildings and dated infrastructure, acquire and regenerate brownfield sites, invest in secure community infrastructure and crime reduction, bring public services and safe community spaces into town centres and improve the public realm including high streets.

Therefore we move that the Council:

1. Regrets that local government continues to be at the forefront of Scottish Government austerity;
2. Instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Scotland asking him if the UK government would consider dealing directly with COSLA and North Ayrshire Council in considering allocating grant funding, to ensure that North Ayrshire Council receives its fair share of funding;
3. Instructs the Chief Executive to submit a Bid to the Regeneration and Town Centre Investment Fund section of the "Levelling up Fund" which welcomes bids to upgrade eyesore buildings and dated infrastructure, acquire and regenerate brownfield sites, invest in secure community infrastructure and crime reduction, and bring public services and safe community spaces into towns, maintaining, regenerating, or creatively repurposing to improve the public realm;
4. Requests that the local Members of Parliament supports any Bid that the Council makes."

9

Urgent Items

Any other items which the Provost considers to be urgent.

Webcasting - Virtual Meeting

Please note: this meeting may be recorded/live-streamed to the Council's internet site, where it will be capable of repeated viewing. At the start of the meeting, the Provost/Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being recorded/live-streamed.

You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act 2018. Data collected during the webcast will be retained in accordance with the Council's published policy, including, but not limited to, for the purpose of keeping historical records and making those records available via the Council's internet site.

If you are participating in this meeting by invitation, you are consenting to being filmed and consenting to the use and storage of those images and sound recordings and any information pertaining to you contained in the them live-streaming/recording or training purposes and for the purpose of keeping historical records and making those records available to the public. If you do not wish to participate in a recording, you should leave the 'virtual meeting'. This will constitute your revocation of consent.

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact dataprotectionofficer@north-ayrshire.gov.uk.

North Ayrshire Council Sederunt

Ian Clarkson (Provost)
Robert Barr (Depute Provost)
John Bell
Timothy Billings
Joy Brahim
Marie Burns
Joe Cullinane
Scott Davidson
Anthea Dickson
John Easdale
Todd Ferguson
Robert Foster
Scott Gallacher
Alex Gallagher
Margaret George
John Glover
Tony Gurney
Alan Hill
Christina Larsen
Shaun Macaulay
Jean McClung
Ellen McMaster
Ronnie McNicol
Louise McPhater
Davina McTiernan
Tom Marshall
Jimmy Miller
Jim Montgomerie
Ian Murdoch
Donald Reid
Donald L Reid
Angela Stephen
John Sweeney

Chair:

Apologies:

Attending:

North Ayrshire Council
17 February 2021

At a Meeting of North Ayrshire Council at 1.00 p.m. involving participation by remote electronic means.

Present

Ian Clarkson, Robert Barr, John Bell, Timothy Billings, Joy Brahim, Marie Burns, Joe Cullinane, Scott Davidson, Anthea Dickson, John Easdale, Todd Ferguson, Robert Foster, Scott Gallacher, Alex Gallagher, Margaret George, John Glover, Tony Gurney, Alan Hill, Christina Larsen, Shaun Macaulay, Jean McClung, Ellen McMaster, Ronnie McNicol, Davina McTiernan, Jimmy Miller, Jim Montgomerie, Ian Murdoch, Donald Reid, Donald L. Reid, Angela Stephen and John Sweeney.

In Attendance

C. Hatton, Chief Executive; R. McCutcheon, Executive Director (Place); A. Sutton, Executive Director (Communities and Education); K. Yeomans, Director (Growth and Investment); C. Cameron, Director (Health and Social Care Partnership); and M. Boyd Head of Finance, A. Fraser, Head of Democratic Services, A. Craig, Senior Manager (Legal Services), M. McColm, Senior Manager (Communications), H. Clancy, E. Gray and A. Little, Committee Services Officers and M. Anderson, Senior Manager (Committee and Member Services) (Chief Executive's Service).

Chair

Provost Clarkson in the Chair.

Apologies

Tom Marshall and Louise McPhater.

1. Provost's Remarks

The Provost welcomed Members and officers to the meeting, which was proceeding with Members in attendance on a wholly remote basis by electronic means.

The Provost dealt with preliminary matters, including an announcement that the meeting would be live streamed.

2. Apologies

The Provost invited intimation of apologies for absence, which were recorded.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest in terms of Standing Order 10 and Section 5 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

There were no declarations of the Party Whip.

4. Previous Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 16 December 2020 was confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7(1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

5. Provost's Report

Submitted report by the Provost for the period from 7 December 2020 to 7 February 2021.

The Provost highlighted a number of online events referred to in his written report, namely:

- a reception and concert hosted by the Consular Corps in Scotland prior to the Christmas break;
- the annual Christmas Concert by North Ayrshire school pupils;
- the PoppyScotland manifesto launch at the beginning of 2021;
- a Robert Burns event organised by the Civic Museum team from Guelph, Canada, to which Irvine Burns Club had contributed in the form of a video entitled "In the Footsteps of Burns and Galt";
- a reception hosted by the Chinese Consul in Edinburgh on 25 January 2021 to mark the retirement of the Chinese Ambassador to the United Kingdom; and
- a meeting with Mayor Rosetti from Voisins, France on 5 February 2021

The Provost concluded his remarks by referring to the recent passing of Bobby Davidson, the former manager of Kilbirnie Ladeside Football Club, paying tribute to the contribution he had made in footballing circles and to his dedication to the community in which he lived. On behalf of all Members, the Provost extended his condolences to Mr Davidson's family and friends.

Noted.

Councillors McNicol and Miller joined the meeting during consideration of this item.

6. Leader's Report

Submitted report by the Leader of the Council for the period from 7 December 2020 to 7 February 2021.

Noted.

7. Council Minute Volume

Submitted for noting, the Minutes of meetings of committees of the Council held in the period 14 September 2020 to 9 February 2021.

Noted.

8. North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board: Minutes of Meeting held on 2 December 2020

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) on the Minutes of the meeting of the North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership Board held on 2 December 2020.

The Chief Executive highlighted the following matters which had been discussed by the CPP Board:

- the Kickstart programme and the delivery of youth employment opportunities;
- an update on the Ayrshire Growth Deal;
- tackling poverty, including the work of the Cost of the School Day working group;
- a refresh of locality priorities informed by learning from the pandemic; and
- discussion on approaches to mental health and wellbeing in light of the pandemic.

Noted.

9. North Ayrshire Ventures Trust Ltd

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the appointment of a new Director to the Board of North Ayrshire Ventures Trust Ltd.

The Council unanimously approved the appointment of Justin Jones to the Board of North Ayrshire Ventures Trust Ltd.

Councillor Glover joined the meeting at this point.

10. Ardrossan Harbour Update

Submitted report by the Director (Growth and Investment) on progress with the redevelopment of Ardrossan Harbour.

The Director (Growth and Investment) provided a short verbal update on the outcome of a meeting of the Ministerial Task Force earlier in the day, highlighting the following:

- the importance of ensuring legal agreements were in place prior to the pre-election period in order to avoid further significant delays in the project;
- the temporary relocation of the ferry service to Troon to ensure a reliable and consistent service during the construction works; and
- the intention to carry out an assessment of the economic impact of the temporary transfer of the service and a commitment to work with the Scottish Government to seek to mitigate this.

At the invitation of the Provost, the Leader of the Council also addressed Members on the key issues arising from the Task Force meeting. Councillor Cullinane referred to the rationale for transferring the ferry service to Troon during construction work in terms of ensuring the reliability and resilience of the service. He advised that a survey of island residents undertaken by the Arran Ferry Committee, Isle of Arran Community Council and other community groups indicated that 80% were in support of this.

Councillor Cullinane reiterated the need to ensure legal agreements were in place at an early date and the importance of seeking to mitigate any adverse economic impact of the temporary relocation of the ferry service, including with regard to low-paid workers travelling to Arran for employment.

Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, moved that the Council:

- “(a) note the report and the progress being made;
- (b) note the findings of the December 2020 Report of the Scottish Parliament’s Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee in relation to the construction of the Glen Sannox and the Scottish Minister’s response thereto, and expresses its frustration at the delays experienced on the Ardrossan Harbour project and the delivery of the Glen Sannox;
- (c) note that Purdah is due to start on 26 March and a failure to get legal agreements signed off in principle by Scottish Ministers prior to that could potentially delay the Harbour project by months;

- (d) agree that the Chief Executive write to the relevant Ministers/Cabinet Secretaries and Peel Ports to emphasise that any further delay would be unacceptable to North Ayrshire Council and our communities and therefore our expectation is that all parties will finalise the legal agreements prior to the start of Purdah to enable the project to progress;
- (e) note the decision of the Ministerial task force this morning to recommend to Ministers that the ferry operates from Troon during the period of the construction works in order to ensure service reliability for Arran, but agrees to seek support from the Scottish Government and its agencies to mitigate any impact on jobs, local businesses and any additional pressures on those who commute to Arran for employment; and
- (f) agree the intention to engage with the Arran and mainland communities on the project.”

As an amendment, Councillor Billings, seconded by Councillor Ferguson, moved approval of the motion, subject to the following changes:

“delete (b) and replace with:

- (b) agrees with the cross-party Scottish parliamentary Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee that the Scottish Government's handling of the procurement process for the new Arran ferry (Glen Sannox) included 'catastrophic' failures resulting in the late delivery of the ferry, hugely inflated costs and is causing harm to Arran's residents and economy, and considers the Scottish Minister's dismissal of the parliamentary committee's finding as unhelpful in finding an effective solution to the issues raised by the report.

and amend (c) to read:

- (c) notes that Purdah is due to start on 26th March 2021 and a failure to get legal agreements signed off in principle by Scottish Ministers prior to that could potentially delay the Harbour project by months. The Council, therefore, agrees that the Chief Executive writes to the relevant Ministers/Cabinet Secretary's and Peel Ports to emphasises that any further delay would be unacceptable to North Ayrshire and our communities. In addition the Chief Executive will urge the Minister to accept the findings of the Parliamentary committee report and ask him how he intends to address the recommendations of the report that will ensure that future ferry and harbour projects will be delivered on time and on budget.”

In terms of Standing Order 5.7, the Provost agreed that the meeting be adjourned at 1.50 p.m. to allow Members to consider the motion and amendment. The meeting reconvened at 2.00 p.m. with the same Members and officers present and in attendance.

Councillor McNicol intimated his intention to move, as a further amendment, approval of Councillor Billings' amendment, subject to the inclusion at (b) of a reference to harm to the residents of Ardrossan as well as to those of Arran.

In terms of Standing Order 14.5, Councillor Billings, with the agreement of his seconder, agreed to alter his amendment to incorporate Councillor McNicol's proposed amendment.

Members then asked questions of clarification of the Director and the proposer and seconder of the motion and amendment and received clarification on the following:

- discussions between the Leader and a number of Members in advance of the Council meeting;
- connectivity issues arising from the distance between Troon Harbour and the train station;
- the likely timescale for public consultation on the proposals;
- the anticipated duration of the construction works and reassurance that the ferry service would revert to Ardrossan thereafter; and
- any required works to Troon to accommodate the temporary transfer of the ferry service and whether there were any associated financial implications for North Ayrshire Council.

The Director (Growth and Investment) undertook to provide further information in due course on the timescale for public consultation on the proposals.

There followed debate and summing up.

On a division and a roll call vote, there voted for the amendment, Councillors Barr, Billings, Ferguson, Gallacher, George, Glover, McNicol, Murdoch, Donald L. Reid and Stephen (10) and for the motion, Councillors Bell, Brahim, Burns, Clarkson, Cullinane, Davidson, Dickson, Easdale, Foster, Gallagher, Gurney, Hill, Larsen, Macaulay, McClung, McMaster, McTiernan, Miller, Montgomerie, Donald Reid and Sweeney (21) and the motion was declared carried.

11. Operation of Community Councils During COVID-19

Submitted report by the Head of Democratic Services on the application of some provisions within the Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Members asked a question and received clarification on funding options to meet the cost of remote meeting platforms for community councils.

Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Bell, moved approval of the recommendations set out in the report. There being no amendment, the motion was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Council agreed as follows:

- (a) in terms community council elections, (i) that the 'ordinary' elections for Arran, Cumbrae, Dalry, Fairlie, Irvine, Kilbirnie and Glengarnock, Kilwinning, Largs, Skelmorlie and West Kilbride which were rescheduled to take place in Spring 2021, be further postponed until September/October/November 2021, (ii) to note that the existing 'ordinary' election arrangements for Beith and District and Saltcoats in Autumn 2021 and Stevenston Community Council in 2022, remained in place and (iii) that in the event of a request from 20 electors to establish a community council in Ardrossan, Dreghorn, Girdle Toll and Bourtreehill or Springside, no action be taken prior to November 2021;
- (b) in respect of any elections in 2021, that authority be delegated to officers to make such adjustments to the election procedures set out in the Scheme as might be required in light of COVID-19;
- (c) that the term of office of existing community councils and their members which would otherwise have come to an end on 30 April 2021 in terms of the previous Emergency Governance decision, be extended until 30 November 2021 (or effectively until the postponed ordinary elections had taken place);
- (d) in the interim, whilst community councils could meet on a remote basis, they were not required to do so, nor were they subject to the usual requirement to meet at least six times per year, and any decisions which community council required to take during this period could be taken remotely via consultation with their members, including decisions relating to the appointment of new members; and
- (e) that the Council would not exercise the power to dissolve a community council during this period.

12. Questions

In terms of Standing Order 12, submitted:

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

"In the light of high levels of social isolation and loneliness experienced by many since the beginning of the Corona pandemic which began in March 2020, can the Leader (or relevant cabinet member) advise of the number of suicides in North Ayrshire which occurred between 1 January - 31 December 2019 and (if figures are currently available) for the period 1 January – 31 December 2020 (or to period in 2020 for which figures are available) and are any special measures currently in place to support those at risk of committing suicide?"

Councillor Foster thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:

“We are all acutely aware of the impact of social isolation on our communities which has been exacerbated during the pandemic. In response to the specific question, sadly the number of completed suicides which took place during 2019 were 18 in North Ayrshire. There is no data currently available for 2020, the figures are not expected to be provided by the registrar’s office until mid to late 2021.

To support our communities during the period of the pandemic suicide prevention and mental health resources and information have been made available to all the community support hubs, alongside training provided to the North Ayrshire Council customer contact centre staff at the outset of the lockdown.

In addition, the North Ayrshire Young People’s Suicide Taskforce set up after a number of young people completed suicide, has focussed on prevention for young people including a multi-agency crisis response, targeted social media campaigns, support pathways for those at risk and training for both staff and senior pupils. We also continue to work with NHS Ayrshire and Arran on the Distressed Children’s Pathway.

The Pan Ayrshire Suicide Prevention Group has developed an action plan including identifying key at risk groups from local and national evidence sources, meeting with Police Scotland to create an efficient and safe information sharing protocol and the continuation and expansion of training to continue the programme of suicide prevention training established over many years. There are also crisis response services in place across Ayrshire with North Ayrshire being a key partner, including Distress Brief Interventions (DBI) where individuals in distress who present to key services receive an appropriate response either from a first responder or being linked in with support workers to help them through their immediate crisis and look at future management. This is currently being rolled out in pilot GP surgeries and Penumbra has been commissioned to provide the support service.”

(2) a question by Councillor Donald L. Reid to the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care in the following terms:

“Can the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care provide an update on the number of planned operations which have been cancelled at Crosshouse University Hospital between 1 April 2020 and 31 December 2020 due to the Covid pandemic; and what actions are being taken to reduce the operations backlog?”

Councillor Foster thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:

“The NHS Ayrshire and Arran decision to cancel elective appointments at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic was a necessary step to ensure the safety of the population. A re-mobilisation process commenced over the summer months and supported the re-introduction of some planned and prioritised planned care patient activity on the basis of clinical urgency. The increasing prevalence of COVID-19 during the autumn months however resulted in a decision to again pause planned care.

Public Health Scotland reports key statistics on the number of planned operations, the number cancelled and the reason for cancellations at Hospitals across Scotland, this information is publicly available on the ISD Scotland website. For Crosshouse Hospital from a total of 1,730 scheduled elective operations from April to December 2020, 7.6% of those operations were cancelled either by NHS Ayrshire and Arran or the individual patient. The number of reported planned operations during that period being at a reduced level based on the step down of planned care.

The Health Board Re-mobilisation Plan 3 which will cover the period April 2021 to March 2022 will focus on beginning to recover routine and planned care services, NHS Ayrshire and Arran will publish plans for the recovery of planned operations when fully developed and agreed.

Data for information only:

NB – note that during 2019-20 Crosshouse Hospital averaged at 810 planned operations a month

Health Board / Hospital Name	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20
University Hospital Crosshouse									
Total Number of scheduled elective operations in theatre system	23	44	120	227	322	284	326	208	176
Total no of scheduled elective cancellations in theatre systems	2	4	5	23	14	25	24	19	15
Cancellation based on clinical reason by hospital	1	3	4	16	12	16	15	8	8
Cancellation based on capacity or non-clinical reason by hospital	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	1	4
Cancelled by Patient	1	1	1	7	1	5	7	10	3
Other reason	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

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

"Can the Cabinet Member for Green New Deal and Sustainability provide Elected Members with an update on progress with the 2020/21 Roads Repair programme, with particular reference to roads in the Garnock Valley area included in that programme?"

Councillor Montgomerie thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:

“Despite the challenges presented by the ongoing pandemic, the 2020/21 Roads Investment Plan is largely complete. There are two remaining resurfacing projects in Kilwinning outstanding, but these are planned for completion by the end of March 2021 and a small number of projects have been re-scheduled to 2021/22 due to planned utility works.

Projects completed within the Garnock Valley as part of the current year’s investment plan include resurfacing and screeding works. The works within the Garnock Valley were carried out at a total cost of £540,000 from the Council’s overall annual capital investment. Works were completed at the following urban locations: Sycamore Avenue, Beith; Houston Crescent, Blairlands Drive and Baidland Avenue, Dalry; and Fudstone Drive, Mossend Avenue, Glenriddet Avenue, Kilbirnie.

In terms of rural locations, the following works have been completed this year: C69 near Beith, U11/12 near Beith, the U32 Auchengree Road, U53 Sandy Road, U44 at Middleton and improvement works on the C80 Whisky Bond road.

As I mentioned earlier, due to planned utility works taking place, a small number of projects have been rescheduled for early delivery in the 21/22 plan, this includes resurfacing works at the U26 Geirston Road.

Separately, approximately £130,000 will be invested in improvements to Beith Main Street, funded from the Town Centre Regeneration Fund, with these works scheduled to commence next month.

The proposed Roads Investment Plan for 2021/22 is currently being finalised and is scheduled for Cabinet consideration on 23 March 2021.”

(4) a question by Councillor Marshall to the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care in the following terms:

"The report by Derek Feeley on the independent review of adult social care in Scotland was published this month.

Amongst other recommendations it suggested the formation of a National Care Service.

Does the portfolio holder agree that:

a. the Scottish Government’s overhaul of Social Care 5 years ago, which was supposed to integrate Council community support services with the NHS through the setting up of Integrated Joint Boards, has failed?

b. the formation of a National Care Service is yet another example of the Nationalist Government pursuing its Central Command and Control Policies to the exclusion of Local Councils?"

In Councillor Marshall's absence, no other Member indicated that they wished, in terms of Standing Order 12.5, to ask this question. Accordingly, the question was deemed to have been withdrawn.

(5) a question by Councillor Murdoch to the Chair of the Planning Committee in the following terms:

"Can the Chair of Planning please confirm how many people have formally asked in writing to speak at the Planning Committee when it considers the Rigghill Wind Farm Application and confirm the date they were received?"

In Councillor Marshall's absence and in his capacity as Vice Chair of the Planning Committee, Councillor Billings thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:

"I can confirm that Skelmorlie Community Council, Fairlie Community Council and Cllr Murdoch have all requested to address the Planning Committee on the Righill application. The dates of the requests are:

- Fairlie Community Council – 4 November 2020 is the date of their formal written request although they were in discussion with planning officers from May 2020
- Skelmorlie Community Council – 5 November 2020
- Cllr Murdoch – 8 June 2020."

As a supplementation question, Councillor Murdoch asked whether there was any reason why any of the parties mentioned would be refused the opportunity to speak, provided they had complied with the relevant guidance.

Councillor Billings responded by advising that the relevant guidance provided for ten minutes in total for objectors to address the meeting, meaning that objectors required to liaise with each other to agree who would speak. Councillor Billings indicated that he was otherwise unaware of any criteria by which someone might be refused the opportunity to speak and undertook to look into this for Councillor Murdoch.

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

"Can the Leader of the Council please confirm what action North Ayrshire Council has taken regarding the incident at Hunterston Jetty on Tuesday 2nd February 2021 involving DS4 & DS8 Drilling Ships and will there be a full investigation?"

Councillor Cullinane thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:

“As the incident involving the two drill ships occurred off-shore, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) were the lead agency for this incident. The MCA officially informed us of the incident the next morning and have since provided regular updates. At no time was Council assistance requested.

It will be for the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and the Marine Accident Investigation Board to determine what, if any, investigation is required into this incident. In relation to the operation of the jetty at Hunterston, this is the responsibility of Clydeport as harbour authority.”

As a supplementation question, Councillor Murdoch referred to the jetty’s location within the Hunterston Park site and asked whether, in light of the significant risk which volunteers had faced in responding to the incident, the Leader would support Fairlie Community Council’s request for a full independent inquiry by the Marine Accident Investigation Board.

Councillor Cullinane responded by indicating his willingness to look at the information from Fairlie Community Council, but suggested that, had the Member wished the Council to commit to a particular course of action, it would have been more appropriate for him to have submitted a motion rather than a question.

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

"In my Ward, I noticed electric car charging points have been installed in car parks in West Kilbride and Dalry. Can I ask the Leader who paid for these installations?"

Councillor Cullinane thanked the Depute Provost for his question and responded in the following terms:

“We had installed one rapid EV Charger at Main Street Car Park, West Kilbride in July 2019 and one rapid EV charger in Smith Street Car Park, Dalry in January 2021.

The capital cost for both EV chargers are funded in full by Transport Scotland’s Local Authority Installation Programme. The electricity cost associated with operating the EV chargers are paid for by the Council.

Officers are currently finalising an Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy which will be considered by Cabinet shortly and will provide details of how we intend to encourage and facilitate the increased use of electric vehicles across North Ayrshire as part of our commitment towards becoming carbon net zero by 2030.”

As a supplementation question, Councillor Barr referred to the absence of a filling station in West Kilbride and Dalry and asked whether the Council would consider building such facilities for these two towns, given that many people did not have an electric vehicle.

Councillor Cullinane responded by suggesting that, if Councillor Barr wished to develop a plan for a municipal filling station in Dalry or West Kilbride, the Council would look at it. The Leader advised, however, that the direction of travel set out by national government was a move away from fuel powered cars to electric vehicles and that the Council was working to meet its commitments in that regard.

(8) a question by Councillor Gallacher to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:

“What percentage of goods and services paid for by NAC actually comes from businesses or suppliers with their headquarters or place of business within North Ayrshire?”

Councillor Cullinane thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:

“The Annual Public Performance Report includes an indicator for % of procurement spent on local enterprises. For 2019-20 it was 19.18%, an increase of 1.75% from 2018-19 (17.43%) and the highest percentage for ten years.

Procurement is of course one of the key pillars of our Community Wealth Building strategy. The aspiration as reflected in the Council Plan’s performance management framework is that we work towards a target of 26% by 2024. We must achieve that within current procurement guidelines and legislation, but we have made immediate changes to some of our procurement processes, such as on Quick Quotes and Wave Planning, to help achieve that. Fundamental to any success will be ensuring that the Business team builds capacity within the local market so that local businesses are able to bid for contracts and to be competitive when they do so. That’s why we allocated resources in last year’s budget to increase the business team’s capacity and to recruit a procurement development officer to work on Community Wealth Building.

It is important to emphasise that our Community Wealth Building strategy is not about the work of the Council in isolation from the rest of the public, private and third sector. We are taking an anchor approach to Community Wealth Building and already East and South Ayrshire Councils, NHS Ayrshire and Arran, Ayrshire College, Scottish Enterprise and TACT have signed our Anchor Charter which commits them to a number of pledges, including some on procurement.”

As a supplementation question, Councillor Gallacher asked whether the Leader could consider what might be done to reduce the turnover threshold in order to allow more small local companies to bid for contracts.

Councillor Cullinane responded by confirming that work was being carried out by the Council's cross-service Procurement Board to seek to facilitate access by local businesses to smaller contracts, subject to compliance with the legal framework in force. The Leader suggested that the Member raise with the Procurement team any particular cases of concern.

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

"During the discussion on setting the Hunterston DEPZ (Detailed Emergency Planning Zone), you said, "I have read the papers and listened for a year now to the advice we are getting and don't see how we, within the framework that's set for us as a Council, can make any other decision than the one that is recommended within the paper." Does the Leader of the Council think that the whole process of being given the responsibility and then making the decision was fair and unrestricted and is he happy with the outcome?"

Councillor Cullinane thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:

"The report to December Council fully explained the extent of the discretion available to Council in setting the DEPZ. If Councillor Murdoch needs more clarity, he only needs to re-read the report presented to Members.

Given that the DEPZ was unanimously approved, I would assume that all Members are satisfied that the Council has exercised its responsibility to set DEPZ within the powers that Parliament has given us."

As a supplementation question, Councillor Murdoch asked why the Council was given the responsibility of setting the DEPZ when there was so little flexibility within this framework.

Councillor Cullinane responded by advising that the Council had had no involvement in setting the decision-making framework which was in place. He noted that Council's decision with regard to setting the DEPZ had been unanimous and so assumed that Councillors were happy with the way in which the Council discharged its duties on this occasion.

13. Motions

In terms of Standing Order 13, submitted:

- (1) a motion proposed by Councillor Billings and seconded by Councillor Ferguson in the following terms:

"Over 10 years ago plans to enable a phased replacement of Scotland's subsidised ferries, including for the Arran route, were drawn up. Over 6 years ago at a public meeting in Brodick we were told there would be a new ferry for the Arran route coming into service in 2018 and that it would be designed to cope with Ardrossan harbour. Now in 2021 with over £150 million already spent, we are still waiting for that ferry that is in no way designed to cope with Ardrossan.

The cross-party Scottish parliamentary Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee enquired into what has happened to Arran's ferry, and published their report in December 2020. The report identified 'catastrophic' failings by those involved including the SNP Scottish government and the publicly owned ferry procurement company. The report includes recommendations to remedy the errors made. However, in response to the report the Scottish Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands, Mr Wheelhouse, said in effect that the report is wrong, that the Scottish government is not at fault and that it did all it could to procure the Arran ferry.

If the Minister, Mr Wheelhouse, thinks that wasting £100s of millions of tax-payers' money to produce the shells of two ferries already over 3 years late is a good use of time and money, one does wonder what he is thinking about. Parliamentary committees are there to scrutinise the actions of the government, and the government is accountable to parliament. When errors are made, they must be recognised and changes made to make improvements. Otherwise further waste will result and it is our communities and economy that suffer.

I therefore move that North Ayrshire Council:

- a. agrees that the Scottish Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands must accept the findings of the ferry enquiry's report, and must establish new systems of working for the future procurement of ferries that take account of the report's recommendations so as to address the failings of the current processes; and
- b. directs North Ayrshire Council's Chief Executive to write to the Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands informing him of the Council's opinions; reminds the Minister of the harm that is being caused to North Ayrshire's island communities due to the inadequate ferry services and asks the Minister to how he intends to address the issues raised in the report so that future ferry procurement processes are fit for purpose and produce ferries in a timely and cost effective manner."

The Council noted that the mover and seconder no longer wished to move this motion, given that the substance of this matter had been dealt with in terms of Agenda Item 9 (Ardrossan Harbour Update).

No other Member indicated that they wished, in terms of Standing Order 13.1, to move the motion.

Accordingly, the motion was deemed to have been withdrawn.

(2) a motion, proposed by Councillor Ferguson and seconded by Councillor Marshall in the following terms:

"The Council delivery plan which forms part of our strategic planning approach has helped to lay the foundations to counter the centralising approach of the Scottish Government towards local government, which has resulted in North Ayrshire being one of the lowest funded councils over the last decade.

We are concerned that this ongoing situation is having a detrimental impact on its ability to provide important public services for our citizens both now and in the future.

In order to look at alternatives to ensure North Ayrshire can reach its full potential we suggest that the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Scotland asking him if the UK government would consider dealing directly with COSLA and North Ayrshire Council in considering allocating grant funding, to ensure that North Ayrshire Council receives its fair share of funding.

We note the existence of the Scottish Government's document "Scottish Shared Prosperity Fund" and the UK Government's decision, announced in the Spending Review, to use its replacement for EU Structural Funds to work in partnership with local authorities and communities right across Scotland to ensure local accountability.

We move that the Council:

1. agrees Devolution is the settled will of the Scottish people;
2. agrees Devolution has been beneficial for Scotland and the rest of the United Kingdom;
3. regrets that local government continues to be at the forefront of SNP austerity;
4. instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Scotland asking him if the UK government would consider dealing directly with COSLA and North Ayrshire Council in considering allocating grant funding, to ensure that North Ayrshire Council receives its fair share of funding; and

5. instructs the Chief Executive to write to COSLA confirming that North Ayrshire Council supports the UK Government's localised approach which would allow North Ayrshire Council to spend our share of future UK Shared Prosperity Funding in line with the Council Delivery Plan which supports the Local Outcome Improvement Plan."

Councillor Ferguson intimated that he no longer wished to move the motion. Councillor Marshall, as his seconder, was not present.

No other Member indicated that they wished, in terms of Standing Order 13.1, to move the motion.

Accordingly, the motion was deemed to have been withdrawn.

The meeting ended at 3.15 p.m.

North Ayrshire Council
4 March 2021

At a Special Meeting of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m. involving participation by remote electronic means.

Present

Ian Clarkson, Robert Barr, John Bell, Timothy Billings, Joy Brahim, Marie Burns, Joe Cullinane, Scott Davidson, Anthea Dickson, John Easdale, Todd Ferguson, Robert Foster, Scott Gallacher, Alex Gallagher, Margaret George, John Glover, Tony Gurney, Alan Hill, Christina Larsen, Shaun Macaulay, Tom Marshall, Jean McClung, Ellen McMaster, Ronnie McNicol, Louise McPhater, Davina McTiernan, Jimmy Miller, Jim Montgomerie, Ian Murdoch, Donald Reid, Donald L. Reid, Angela Stephen and John Sweeney.

In Attendance

C. Hatton, Chief Executive; R. McCutcheon, Executive Director, Y. Baulk, Head of Service (Physical Environment), D. Hammond, Head of Service (Commercial) and C. McAuley, Head of Service (Economic Development and Regeneration) (Place); A. Sutton, Executive Director (Communities and Education); C. Cameron, Director (Health and Social Care Partnership); M. Boyd Head of Service, D. Forbes, Senior Manager and N. Graham, Team Manager (Finance); T. Reaney, Head of Service (Recovery and Renewal); F. Walker, Head of Service and M. Lindsay, Senior Customer Officer (People and ICT); and A. Fraser, Head of Service, A. Craig, Senior Manager (Legal Services), M. McColm, Senior Manager (Communications), H. Clancy, E. Gray and A. Little, Committee Services Officers and M. Anderson, Senior Manager (Committee and Member Services) (Democratic Services) (Chief Executive's Service).

Chair

Provost Clarkson in the Chair.

1. Provost's Remarks

The Provost welcomed those present to the meeting and dealt with preliminary matters, which included an announcement that the Council meeting would be live streamed.

2. Apologies

The Provost invited intimation of apologies for absence. There were none.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest in terms of Standing Order 10 and Section 5 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

There were no declarations of the Party Whip.

4. General Services Revenue Estimates 2021/22 to 2023/24

Submitted report by the Head of Service (Finance) on the Council's revenue spending requirements and anticipated funding for 2021/22 and 2023/24; the levels of reserves and fund balances held by the Council, and options to address the funding gap. Appendices 1 and 2 to the report set out the revised expenditure requirements for 2021/22 and operational budget adjustments, respectively. Savings approved as part of the 2020/21 revenue budget and the expenditure requirements identified for 2021/22 to 2023/24, were detailed at Appendices 3 and 4, respectively. Appendix 5 summarised proposed savings, excluding the Health and Social Care Partnership, and Appendix 6 contained a list of charges to be increased with effect from 1 April 2021. The budget matrix for 2021/22 was set out at Appendix 7 to the report.

Members were invited to note that a revised Appendix 6 (Fees and Charges) to the report had been circulated, with amended elements in respect of the Health and Social Care Partnership highlighted in yellow.

Members asked questions in respect of the following matters:

- future workforce planning and reassurance that no compulsory redundancies were anticipated in 2021/22 or future years;
- a breakdown of all unitary charge payments in respect of the PPP-funded schools in 2021/22 (namely the finance lease creditor payment, the finance lease creditor interest, the lifecycle maintenance profile, the contingent rentals and the cost of services);
- the names of the current owners of PPP Services North Ayrshire Limited and any potential conflict of interest for one of these parties; and
- given the closure of schools in the course of the Covid-19 pandemic, whether any meetings had taken place between the owners of the PPP contract and the Council to renegotiate the unitary charge, particularly with regard to operating costs

The Leader of the Council then addressed the meeting on the Administration's budget proposals.

Thereafter, Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Larsen, moved as follows:

“That the Council approve the proposals set out in the report, subject to the following changes:

- a) £250,000 non-recurring investment in a Digital Officer to support the digital strategy review following the pandemic;
- b) £350,000 non-recurring investment in an Outdoor and Residential Learning and Experiences: Covid Intervention Fund;
- c) Both funded by reducing the additional non-recurring contribution to the Investment Fund to £1.4million; and
- d) Agrees to freeze Council Tax at the same level as 2020/21.”

As the seconder of the motion, Councillor Larsen then addressed the meeting.

In terms of Standing Order 14.7, Members sought clarification from the mover and seconder of the motion in respect of the following:

- whether the proposed Council Tax freeze set out in the motion already formed part of the recommendations within the officer’s report; and
- clarification on the number of posts associated with the proposed Digital Officer expenditure and their duration

Councillor Billings then addressed the Council on behalf of the Conservative and Unionist Group’s budget proposals.

Thereafter, as an amendment, Councillor Billings, seconded by Councillor Marshall, moved as follows:

“That the Council approves the recommendations set out in the report and supports a freeze in council tax at 2020/21 levels subject to the amendments noted below:

- (a) Item 2.7.6 - to amend the proposed further commitment to the Investment Fund from £2m to £1.215m
- (b) Item 2.8 - to add item 2.8.1.1 In addition to the proposed recurring budget funding, which for 2021/22 is remaining at the same level as the current financial year, to provide non-recurring funding of £0.785m, which equates to 0.8% of the recurring budget funding.

Whilst recognising that final funding decisions will be made by the IJB it is proposed that this additional funding would be used for two purposes:

- (1) £0.500m to establish a challenge fund to finance the initial stages of transformational projects that will save money in future years
- (2) £0.285m to provide low-level mental health interventions that will support the higher-level work detailed in the HSCP's mental health mobilisation plans."

As the seconder of the motion, Councillor Marshall then addressed the meeting.

In terms of Standing Order 14.7, Members sought clarification from the mover and seconder of the amendment in respect of the following:

- the type of projects which might be included in the proposed challenge fund; and
- the extent to which expenditure of £0.285m was likely to make an impact in terms of mental health interventions

In responding to the question on potential challenge fund projects, Councillor Billings, as the mover of the amendment, sought input from the Director (Health and Social Care Partnership). Councillor Cullinane requested clarification on the competence of this. In terms of Standing Order 5.7, the Provost determined that it was not competent for the officer to contribute to the Member's response.

On a point of order, Councillor Gallagher queried the competence of the further amendment insofar as it sought to direct the Integration Joint Board on expenditure decisions within its own remit. In terms of Standing Order 5.7, the Provost determined that the amendment was competent.

Councillor Murdoch then addressed the meeting on the terms of a further amendment.

As a further amendment, Councillor Murdoch, seconded by Councillor Donald L. Reid, moved as follows:

"That the Council approves the recommendations set out in the report, including a Council Tax freeze at 2020/21 levels, subject to the following amendment:

- (a) Reduction of £1.000m in the contribution to the Investment Fund as outlined in paragraph 2.7.6 of the report
- (b) Additional capital investment of £1.000m to Roads Improvement in 2021/22 with the objective of increasing the expenditure on planned maintenance to improve road condition within North Ayrshire

This will be reflected in the Capital Investment Programme in 2021/22."

As the seconder of the further amendment, Councillor Donald L. Reid then addressed the meeting.

In terms of Standing Order 5.7, the Provost agreed that the meeting be adjourned at 3.20 p.m. for a comfort break and to allow Members to consider the motion and amendments. The meeting reconvened at 3.40 p.m. with the same Members and officers present and in attendance.

In response to concern expressed by Councillor Barr with regard to the time allotted for the recess and the arrangements in place to allow Members to meet virtually during it, the Provost invited Members to indicate whether a further recess was required. No such request was made.

The Provost then sought clarification on whether there were any further amendments, or alteration or withdrawal of the motion or any amendment in terms of Standing Order 14.5.

Councillor Billings intimated that he wished to alter his amendment.

On a point of order, Councillor Gurney sought, and received, advice on the competence of permitting Councillor Billings to alter his amendment. At the request of Councillor Hill, clarification was also provided by the Head of Democratic Services on the competence of the amendment being altered to incorporate elements of the original motion.

Following further consideration, Councillor Billings intimated that he no longer wished to alter his amendment.

There followed debate and summing up.

Thereafter, on a division and roll call vote, there voted for the amendment by Councillor Billings, seconded by Councillor Marshall, Councillors Barr, Billings, Ferguson, Gallacher, George, Glover, Marshall, McNicol, Murdoch, Donald L. Reid and Stephen (11) and for the motion by Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Larsen, Councillors Bell, Brahim, Burns, Clarkson, Cullinane, Davidson, Dickson, Easdale, Foster, Gallagher, Gurney, Hill, Larsen, Macaulay, McClung, McMaster, McPhater, McTiernan, Miller, Montgomerie, Reid and Sweeney (22), and the motion became the substantive motion.

On a further division and roll call vote, Councillors Ferguson and Marshall abstaining, there voted for the amendment by Councillor Murdoch, seconded by Councillor Donald L. Reid, Councillors Barr, Gallacher, George, Glover, McNicol, Murdoch, Donald L. Reid and Stephen (8), and for the substantive motion by Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Larsen, Councillors Bell, Billings, Brahim, Burns, Clarkson, Cullinane, Davidson, Dickson, Easdale, Foster, Gallagher, Gurney, Hill, Larsen, Macaulay, McClung, McMaster, McPhater, McTiernan, Miller, Montgomerie, Reid and Sweeney (23), and the substantive motion was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Council, having considered the equality and children's rights and the islands impact of service changes, agreed to:

- (a) note the anticipated funding available to meet expenditure requirements;
- (b) approve the Council's expenditure requirements for 2021/22 and note the indicative requirements for 2022/23 and 2023/24;
- (c) note the projected outturn position for 2020/21 within the context of risks facing the Council from the COVID-19 pandemic and approve the utilisation of available financial flexibilities to address pressures during 2021/22 and beyond;
- (d) note the Scottish Government announcement of 16 February 2021 on further funding anticipated in 2020/21 to help address financial pressures of the pandemic and that further expenditure proposals be developed as part of recovery and renewal;
- (e) note the level of reserves and fund balances held by the Council and approve any use and contributions to and from these;
- (f) approve the additional contribution to the Health and Social Care Partnership noted at section 1.10 of the report;
- (g) approve the additional investment proposals outlined at section 2.7.6 of the report, subject to:
 - (i) reducing the additional non-recurring contribution to the Investment Fund from the £2 million proposed in the report to £1.4 million;
 - (ii) a non-recurring investment of £250,000 in a Digital Officer to support the digital strategy review following the pandemic; and
 - (iii) a non-recurring investment of £350,000 in an Outdoor and Residential Learning Experiences: Covid Intervention Fund;
- (h) approve efficiencies and savings to ensure a balanced budget for 2021/22, consequentials and new proposals in future years;
- (i) approve the schedule of Council fees and charges details at Appendix 6 to the report;
- (j) set a 0% Council Tax increase for 2021/22;
- (k) note the anticipated funding gap for 2022/23 and 2023/24;
- (l) note progress to date on the Council's Transformation and Renewal programme and corporate Workforce Planning; and
- (m) approve the budget matrix for 2021/22.

5. Capital Investment Programme 2021/22 to 2030/31

Submitted report by the Head of Service (Finance) on the draft Capital Investment Programme to 2030/31. The current capital programme for 2021/22 to 2022/23, proposed changes to the capital programme for 2021/22 to 2030/31, and details of the revised programme for 2021/22 to 2030/31, were set out at Appendices 1-3 to the report, respectively. The refreshed Capital Investment Strategy (CIS) was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

A Member asked a question, and received clarification, in respect of the proposed Solar Photovoltaic (PV) investment referred to at section 2.16 of the report.

Thereafter, Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Bell, moved that the Council approve the recommendations set out in the report. There being no amendment, the motion was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Council agreed to:

- (a) approve the Capital Investment Programme to 2030/31 as set out in the report and appendices;
- (b) note that the programme would be reviewed on an ongoing basis, with the next major review to be completed during 2023/24; and
- (c) approve the refreshed Capital Investment Strategy set out at Appendix 4 to the report.

6. Revenue Estimates 2021/22 - Common Good Funds and Trusts

Submitted report by the Head of Service (Finance) on the anticipated annual income and expenditure of the Common Good Funds and Trusts administered by North Ayrshire Council and seeking approval for the level of grant funding to be made available for disbursement in 2021/22. The remaining smaller trusts and sundry bequests administered by the Council were listed at Appendix 1 to the report. Appendix 2 set out the 2021/22 revenue estimates for the Common Good Funds and registered charitable Trusts.

Members asked questions and received clarification in respect of the following elements of the report:

- the proposed minimum level of disbursement in respect of the Irvine, Largs, Millport and Saltcoats Common Good Funds, as set out at section 2.5 of the report;
- the projected income of £2,000 for Irvine Common Good Fund relating to the

- sale of ground, as referred to at Appendix 2 to the report;
- whether the £6,000 not disbursed by the Margaret Archibald Trust in 2020/21 would be available for future disbursement;
- the fees associated with administering the various funds and whether a more cost-effective method might be identified; and
- the balance of funds available within the Dalry Charitable Trust and their potential disbursement

The Head of Service (Finance) undertook to (i) provide Members with requested information on the Irvine Common Good ground to be sold, as referred to at Appendix 2 to the report; (ii) seek to identify a more cost-effective method of administering the Common Good Funds and Trusts; (iii) liaise with the appropriate Executive Director to examine the potential to minimise the grounds maintenance charges to Largs Common Good Fund and (iv) liaise with Councillor Barr in respect of the potential disbursement of funds from the Dalry Charitable Trust.

Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Bell, moved that the Council approve the recommendations set out in the report. There being no amendment, the motion was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Council agreed to:

- approve the 2021/22 revenue estimates for the Common Good Funds and registered charitable Trusts detailed in Appendix 2 to the report;
- approve the carry forward of funds from Irvine Common Good Fund to meet the costs of urgent and essential work required at Seagate Castle, as noted at section 2.3 of the report;
- approve the amounts available for disbursement noted at section 2.11 of the report;
- approve capital spend from the dormant and low-value Trusts and the Irvine, Largs, Millport and Saltcoats Common Good Funds and instruct officers to seek approval from the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) prior to the disbursement of any grant which would result in winding up of a Trust;
- approve (i) the amendment of the constitution and/or the Trustees' powers in relation to the James Dyer Simpson Fund, H. Watt Trust and J.H. Watt Trust, held within North Ayrshire Charitable Trust, to allow the disbursement of the remaining capital and the winding up of the trusts' fund, with the approval of OSCR and (ii) expenditure of the capital where this is considered the most appropriate way of achieving the trusts' purposes.

7. Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2021-22

Submitted report by the Head of Service (Finance) on the proposed Strategy for Treasury Management and Investment activities within the Council for the financial year 2021/22. The draft Strategy document was attached as an appendix to the report.

Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Bell, moved that the Council approve the recommendations set out in the report. There being no amendment, the motion was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Council agreed to approve the Treasury Management and Investment Strategy for 2021/22 set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

The meeting ended at 5.00 p.m.



PROVOST'S REPORT

For the period covering: 8 February – 21 March
2021

The attached report gives a summary and brief details to Council, of meetings and events attended by the Provost of North Ayrshire Council, Councillor Ian Clarkson.

PROVOST'S REPORT

For the period covering: 8 February – 21 March 2021

Since the last meeting of the Council I have taken part in several events, including:

Chinese New Year Online Reception, 9 February

On 9 February, I attended an online reception to celebrate the 2021 Chinese New Year, the Year of the Ox. Hosted by the Chinese Consul General in Edinburgh, the reception brought together Civic Heads and representatives from various organisations in Scotland. These events provide an excellent platform for developing existing relationships and for promoting North Ayrshire to a wider audience.

Irvine Burns Club Zoom Gathering, 10 February

Irvine Burns Club continue to host monthly events online, which are becoming increasingly popular and far-reaching. On 10 February, I took part in their latest event where among other items, there was a presentation by Past President Ian Dickson on Captain Charles Gray, RM who was Irvine Burns Club President in 1834 and again in 1836.

2021 Edinburgh Official Chinese New Year Celebration and Concert, 13 February

On 13 February, I attended an online reception and concert hosted by the Asian Association of Culture and Education in Europe. The Lord Provost of Edinburgh was in attendance as well as many other dignitaries who enjoyed an evening of cultural entertainment marking the Chinese New Year.

Chinese New Year 2021 Online Celebration with United Nations House Scotland and British Born Young Talent Association, 19 February

On 19 February, I took part in another Chinese New Year celebration. This time, the event was hosted by United Nations House Scotland and the British Born Young Talent Association. I was delighted to show my support to the Chinese community in Scotland and be part of the cultural celebrations.

Consulate General of Japan - Emperor's Birthday Online Celebration, 23 February

On 23 February, I was invited by the Consul General of Japan to view a special online film in celebration of the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan. Normally the occasion would be marked by coming together at a reception. As this is not possible this year, the exclusively created film captured the essence of the occasion.

It involved a message from Rt. Hon. Ken Macintosh MSP, Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament and a joint message from Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Culture, and Michael Russell MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, Europe and External Affairs. Updates on the wonderful friendship between Japan, Scotland and the north of England were also provided by several organisations and footage included the beautiful Japanese garden at Cowden Castle.

Celebration of St Patrick's Day, Online Event, 17 March

On 17 March, I took part in an online celebration to celebrate St Patrick's Day, hosted by the Consul General of Ireland.

Along with messages from Taoiseach Micheál Martin and H.E. Adrian O'Neill, Ambassador of Ireland to the United Kingdom, we also heard some of the best classical and contemporary Irish music. I was delighted to be invited to these celebrations and show my support to the Irish community in Scotland.

Irvine Burns Club Zoom Gathering, 17 March

On 17 March, I attended the Irvine Burns Club online gathering. These monthly meetings are proving to be very popular and are well-attended. On this occasion, the guest speaker was Dr Pauline Mackay, Lecturer in Robert Burns Studies at the University of Glasgow. Pauline spoke on and read extracts from her book entitled "Burns for Every Day of the Year". Pauline also discussed the potential uses of virtual reality as a teaching resource for Burns poetry.



Ian Clarkson

Councillor Ian Clarkson
Provost North Ayrshire Council



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

LEADER'S REPORT

For the period covering: 8 February – 21 March
2021

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.

LEADER'S REPORT

For the period covering: 8 February – 21 March 2021

COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING STAFF ROUNDTABLE EVENT, 9 February

On 9 February I attended the first Community Wealth Building (CWB) Staff Roundtable Event, the purpose of which was to welcome and introduce new CWB staff to senior Council officers and to give an overview of their roles in relation to CWB.

The session also enabled attendees to hear about our CWB journey so far including highlights such as the launch of our CWB strategy last May, the signing of our Anchor charter in October 2020 and the inclusion of £3 million in our Ayrshire Growth Deal for CWB-related projects. This will involve taking a regional approach to develop place-based activities focused on procurement, fair work employment, assets and ownership.

Looking forward, we aim to invest £8.8 million in economic recovery and renewal strategies which will look to:

- Maximise a renewable energy generation
- Creation of £0.5m Green Jobs Fund
- Tackling vacant and derelict land
- Tree planting programme for carbon absorption

More of these events will be held in due course enabling all North Ayrshire Council staff to learn more and engage in our CWB work where possible.

COSLA LEADERS, 10 February

I attended COSLA Leaders on 10 February where attendees received an update on the Independent Review of Adult Social Care (IRASC) final report which was published on the 3 February. This report provides an initial analysis of the IRASC findings for consideration by COSLA Leaders in advance of a scheduled Scottish Parliamentary debate in the week commencing 15th February.

The aim of the Independent Review of Adult Social Care is to recommend improvements to adult social care in Scotland, primarily in terms of the outcomes achieved by and with people who use services, their carers and their families, and the experience of people who work in adult social care.

A further paper will be provided for the COSLA Leaders meeting at the end of February 2021.

ARDROSSAN TASK FORCE, 17 February

On 17 February I attended a further meeting of the Ardrossan Task Force, chaired by Paul Wheelhouse, Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands. I am not alone in my frustration at the continuing saga of the delays to the Ardrossan Harbour project and the endless problems related to the Glen Sannox boat.

The project is effectively ready to go, it is therefore vital that all parties get the legal agreements finalised and that Minister's sign them off before the 26th March. I reiterated to the Taskforce that it would be wholly unacceptable to let this saga drift further. As North Ayrshire Council Leader I will stand up for the interests of our local communities and that is what I will continue to do over the coming weeks.

Once the project does proceed to construction, the service will be temporarily relocated to Troon. This was a position that we have argued against since the Ardrossan-Troon battle was won in early 2017. We always argued that the default position should be to operate the ferry service from the Irish Berth at Ardrossan during the construction period, an argument that had been agreed by all members of the taskforce. However, like so many things, as the reality comes closer, the impact becomes clearer.

We now know that to operate the ferry service from Ardrossan during the construction works could see a 50% increase in ferry cancellations. It's not a scenario that is acceptable to the Arran ferry committee, nor to the wider island community demonstrated by 80% of respondents to a recent survey by the ferry committee supporting a temporary move to Troon during the construction phase. However disappointing this may be, it remains the priority to ensure a reliable, consistent ferry service for Arran during the project.

Whatever decision was made it would have had an impact on businesses and people on Arran and the mainland. We have been undertaking some economic analysis of the impact and we will be seeking support from the Scottish Government and its agencies to mitigate any negative impact from the short-term move on local businesses, jobs and those who commute from our mainland communities to the island for employment.

SCOTLAND EXCEL EXECUTIVE SUB COMMITTEE , 19 February

I attended the Scotland Excel Executive Sub Committee on 19 February. Attendees discussed a range of subjects including several requests from Housing Associations for Associate

Membership and there was an update on the Contract Delivery Plan for the current financial year. This will see 13 existing contracts renewed and a further eight new contracts awarded.

AYRSHIRE ECONOMIC JOINT COMMITTEE, 22 February

On 22 February, I chaired a meeting of the Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee and was delighted to oversee the approval of the first two Ayrshire Growth Deal projects.

Whilst Growth Deals have tended to focus on big capital projects in Ayrshire, we were determined to ensure that ours had a focus on people. It's not just about big infrastructure investment but also an investment in our region's people. That's why, alongside the capital projects, our Ayrshire Growth Deal includes revenue-funded projects that focus on skills and helping local people into employment. Two such projects were approved last week and will start being delivered very soon.

Working for a Healthy Economy is a £5million project which recognises that work and health are inexplicitly linked and aims to remove any health-related barriers to a thriving, inclusive Ayrshire economy. Working can improve health but we know that poor health can be a barrier to people accessing employment opportunities. The Working for a Healthy Economy will be an occupational therapy service that will support unemployed residents to overcome health barriers to entering the labour market, help those in employment but experiencing health problems to retain that employment and to support local businesses to improve retention of their workforce. Over the five years of the project, the aim is to support almost 10,000 Ayrshire citizens.

The second project that was signed off is of great importance to me – Community Wealth Building. North Ayrshire Council has been leading the way on Community Wealth Building in Scotland and a £3million fund was a late addition to the Ayrshire Growth Deal as a result. The £3million fund will allow Community Wealth Building to be rolled out across Ayrshire and help ensure that the benefits of the full £251million Growth Deal are felt by communities across our region. The Growth Deal project will enable us to get more boots on the ground, bringing additional resources on top of the Community Wealth Building team that we have already recruited at North Ayrshire Council, and allow us to build momentum on this exciting agenda.

COSLA LEADERS, 26 February

COSLA Leaders met on 26 February to discuss another packed Agenda. Discussion items included the Scottish Government's Green Growth Accelerator, Councillors Code of Conduct, Local Government Data Platform, Children and Young Peoples' Mental Health Board, Local Government Finance Update and the Place Based Investment Fund.

The 2020-21 Programme for Government announced the creation of a Place Based Investment Programme with £275m of funding to support place-based working and regeneration, including community-led regeneration, town centre revitalisation, Community Wealth Building and 20-minute neighbourhoods. A proposal has been made to distribute £23m per annum in funding to Local Government from this programme. The intention is that this fund would contain high-level criteria similar to the Town Centre Fund but also covering place and 20 minute neighbourhoods, recognising the diversity of Scotland's rural and urban places.

North Ayrshire Council is well-positioned in its strategic approach to place-making with a coordinated approach through its decentralized, democratic structures, Locality Partnerships, working to locally identified priorities and action plans. Also, future delivery under this programme will be informed by our forthcoming Regeneration Delivery Plan and of course, Place making is well embedded in our Local Development Plan (LDP) to deliver quality places.

COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING EXPERT PANEL, 2 March

On 2 March the Community Wealth Building Expert Panel met to hear updates on our progress with our Community Wealth Building strategy and more specifically, to receive a presentation on North Ayrshire Council's Environmental, Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2021-23.

The Environmental, Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy (ESCCS) has been developed to support the delivery of the Council's priorities and continue to work towards a sustainable environment. The Panel discussed and shared their views on the interconnected opportunities and challenges of tackling climate change and economic development. There was also a useful insight into Panel members thoughts on our Green Economy workstream including our suggested priority actions which will ensure we support and enhance the five pillars of Community Wealth Building through delivery.

My thanks to Yvonne Baulk (Head of Physical Environment at North Ayrshire Council) and her team of officers for their presentations and of course, to my fellow colleague and Cabinet Member for Green New Deal and Sustainability, Councillor Jim Montgomerie for attending the session and his input.

The Panel will meet again in June and as ever, my thanks to them for their contribution and advice on CWB delivery.

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING, 4 March

On 4 March Elected Members of North Ayrshire Council met to agree our budget for 2021-22. It's a budget that prioritises jobs, not only protecting existing council jobs but creating new ones too, delivering, for the third consecutive year, an increase in council jobs. During an economic downturn, which we are experiencing as a result of Covid, when private sector jobs are lost, the importance of good, well-paid public-sector jobs take on an even greater economic value to local and regional economies. Keeping people in employment, enabling them to continue spending in support of the local economy, becomes fundamental and from day one of the budget process it was a priority for my Administration.

It's a budget that will reduce the cost of the school day, with £500,000 of investment to reduce food, uniform and digital costs for families.

It is a budget that invests in our areas core infrastructure, with an additional £7million of investment in roads, active travel, council buildings and to assist with the transition of the council's vehicle fleet to electric and low emission vehicles.

It is a budget that continues to invest in our area's future, with an extra £1.4million going in to top up the Investment Fund that we created last year. The £8.8million we placed in the Investment Fund last year has been pivotal in supporting our economic recovery and renewal approach and has already invested in our Green Jobs Fund, the tree planting programme and the council owned solar farm at Nethermaines, Kilwinning. The additional £1.4million will help with the development of further council-owned solar and wind power projects.

The capital programme has been increased to £373million of investment over the next decade. It includes over £100million to improve our school estate including the new Ardrossan Campus, new Moorpark Primary School, the new ASN school - Lockhart Campus in Stevenston - the planned new Primary and Early Years Centre at Montgomerie Park and includes an extra £6.25million in school ICT infrastructure.

The Roads investment programme has been increased to £38million, an additional £15.6million from last year's capital programme. A further £6million will be invested in Active Travel projects, with investment in walking and cycling routes.

There will also be £10.5million invested in street lighting, £3.2m for new cemeteries, £3million for a new seawall at Largs promenade and £26.5million on the Millport Flood Defence Scheme.

The capital programme also includes £68million of investment that will support the £250million Ayrshire Growth Deal. This investment comes off the back of the UK Government, previously,

announcing that their investment in the Ayrshire Growth Deal will be compressed into a 10-year period rather than their original intention to stagger it over 15 years. This was something that the three Ayrshire Councils pressed the UK Government on and means that the full Growth Deal investment programme is now aligned over a 10-year period.

Whilst we carry many Covid-related risks into the next financial year, this was a budget that will help North Ayrshire recover, renew and reform from the pandemic. It is a budget that will deliver for local people and one we are proud of in these most challenging of times.

COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING, 11 March

On 11 March I chaired a meeting of Community Planning Partners where attendees received presentations and updates on the following:

- Draft Local Police Plan
- Community Justice Ayrshire
- Cost of the School Day
- Children's Services Planning
- Community Food System
- Step Change for North Ayrshire CPP
- Multi Agency Locality Working
- Locality hubs, centres and libraries consultation

I am delighted with the work we are progressing as part of our community food system strategy ensuring that all North Ayrshire residents have access to good food provisions with dignity. By using the Community Wealth Building principles we are able to use local businesses and third sector organisations to provide low cost or free food to local people who need it. It is hoped that each of the localities will eventually have one of the following available for them to access:

- Food Co-op
- Community Larder/Pantry
- Community Shop
- Box Scheme
- Community Fridge

I know that our first Pantry opened at Whitlees Community Centre in Ardrossan just before Christmas and I am delighted to see another one open on 9 March at Cranberry Moss in Kilwinning. Both projects are an example of community work at its finest. My thanks to all those involved in setting these up and for their continued work and dedication to helping our North Ayrshire communities.

Finally, I would like to thank Barbara Hastings from The Ayrshire Community Trust (TACT) and Kenneth Hankinson from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service who will be retiring soon. Both of them have been involved with North Ayrshire CPP for a number of years and have been great supporters of our work. My best wishes to both of them for the future.

SPECIAL COSLA LEADERS, 12 March

I attended a Special COSLA Leaders meeting on 12 March where discussion focused primarily on the UK and Scottish Budgets.

Following the UK government budget announcement, further consequentials of £1.2 billion were identified. The majority of these have been applied to extend the proposed Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Non-domestic rates (NDR) relief from the three months included in the Scottish budget to a full 12 month relief. We await final details of the eligibility and application process for the additional relief.

In addition, investment programmes to be made available across the UK on a bid basis were announced including: Community Renewal Fund of £220million; Levelling Up Fund of £4.8billion over 4 years and a Community Ownership Fund of £150 million. Again, we are awaiting full details and these will be discussed at a future meeting of COSLA Leaders.

NORTH AYRSHIRE FOOD FORUM, 18 March

I attended a meeting of the North Ayrshire Food Forum on 18 March. I have already mentioned some of the outstanding work we are doing throughout North Ayrshire as part of our food strategy and this was outlined again at this meeting. There was also an update from the North Ayrshire Rangers about the work being done in our community garden.

SCOTLAND EXCEL EXECUTIVE SUB COMMITTEE , 19 March

I attended another meeting of the Scotland Excel Executive Sub Committee on 19 March. Attendees received an update on the revenue budget and discussed several requests for Associate Membership, one from a Housing Association and another from the University of Glasgow. Attendees also received an update from the Scotland Excel Chief Executive on contracts within the care portfolio and on the potential impact of the recommendations from the Independent Review of Adult Social Care. The Fostering and Continuing Care framework renewal is being finalised for publication, having been postponed due to Covid19. It is anticipated that the outcome of the process will be presented at the June Executive Sub Committee for approval.

LEADER'S REPORT



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

Councillor Joe Cullinane
Leader North Ayrshire Council

