



**North Ayrshire Council**  
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

Meeting of the Council

Wednesday 22 June 2022

Responses to Questions



## Question

- (1) a question by Councillor Billings to the Cabinet Member for Place in the following terms:

“With regard to waste, can the Cabinet Member advise (i) where the recycled waste collected in North Ayrshire goes for processing, (ii) how much of the waste sent for recycling is processed in the UK, (iii) if any waste is sent outside the UK, how much is sent and what type of waste it is and (iv) what percentage of waste sent for recycling is actually recycled and how much ends up either in landfill or being incinerated?”

## Response

- (i) Details of where the Council’s recycling materials go for processing are:

Blue Bin Mainland - Domestic Paper and Card  
Saica Natur, Poplar House, 4 Arches, Croy. Scotland

Purple Bin Mainland - Domestic Glass, Cans, Plastic, Cartons  
Levenseat by Forth, Lanark, Lanarkshire. Scotland

Brown Bin Mainland - Domestic/Commercial Garden and Food Waste  
Enva, Newhousemill Road, Blantyre. Scotland.

Blue Bin Arran/Commercial - Paper, Card, Glass, Cans, Plastic, Cartons  
Re-Gen Waste Ltd, Unit 7, Shepherd's Drive, Carnbane Industrial Estate, Newry, Co. Down. Northern Ireland.

- (ii) 100% of the waste sent for recycling is initially processed within the UK by the Council's recycling contractors.
- (iii) During the 2021 calendar year, 3833.19 tonnes (13.9%) of the waste separated by our recycling processors was then sent/sold by them to outside of the UK.

This is broken down as follows:

Metal cans	68.72T
Mixed plastics	110.97T
Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF)	333.8T
Glass	2518.59T
Paper / Cardboard	801.11T
Total	3833.19T

- (iv) During the calendar year 2021, 90.14% of the kerbside recyclable waste collected was recycled or diverted from landfill/disposal, with the majority of the remaining 9.86% of contamination/non-recyclables being disposed of as a Refuse Derived Fuel for incineration (9.68%), and a small proportion (0.18%) requiring to be landfilled”

## Question

- (2) a question by Councillor Sweeney to the Cabinet Member for Place in the following terms:

“Following work done by the Labour Administration and Council Officers to pursue the purchase of the former Lonsdale Bar in Stevenston, can the Administration confirm whether they remain committed to bringing the Lonsdale site into council-ownership in order to tackle this derelict blight on Stevenston?”

## Response

“Valuations have been obtained for the site considering the Gross Market Value (with the benefit of planning consent) and the market value (with the benefit of existing use). The site has recently been marketed for sale. Prior to, and since this, the council has been in communication with the landowner on options for purchase based on market valuations but no agreement has been reached to date.

We continue to review the options available.”

## Question

- (3) a question by Councillor Johnson to the Cabinet Member for Finance in the following terms:

“What is the figure of funding North Ayrshire Council receives through Grant Aided Expenditure for 2022/23 and in particular how much of this funding has been allocated to Strathclyde Passenger Transport to subsidise bus routes within North Ayrshire, and is North Ayrshire Council responsible for deciding which routes are deemed necessary for funding?”

## Response

“In the Grant Aided Expenditure (GAE) budget lines which make up the Council's Budget settlement the relevant GAE lines indicate that for 2022/23 North Ayrshire Council was funded to the level of £2.149m. The agreed requisition to be paid out to Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) for 2022/23 totals £2.496m, therefore from a general funding perspective North Ayrshire Council expends more than is reflected in the GAE funding lines. It is recognised however that funding to local authorities is subject to various other changes and adjustments.

North Ayrshire Council, along with 11 other former Strathclyde local authorities, fund the SPT on an annual basis. The funding is passed to the individual local authorities as part of the annual budget settlement and then North Ayrshire Council arrange to forward on the agreed contribution direct to the SPT on an annual basis. The total agreed contribution for 2022/23 includes £2.134m in respect of the Core Requisition, £0.286m for Concessionary Fares and £0.076m for Bus stops and shelters. This represents total funding from North Ayrshire Council of £2.496m for 2022/23.

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This funding is intended to meet the overall operating costs of the SPT, including any costs relating to the subsidisation of bus routes and, importantly, any decisions on which bus routes are to be subsidised and by how much is a matter for the SPT and the bus operators across the former Strathclyde area.”

## Question

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

"Will the authority be making a further breakdown of 'care experienced' children in their targeting of support as 'care experienced' is a wide, catch-all term that includes people of significantly different backgrounds and needs?"

## Response

“We take into account the living arrangements and circumstances when we are administering funds, entitlements, grants and redesigning services that affect the care experienced community as a collective group and also we tailor supports on an individualised basis to appropriately meet the needs of individual care experienced children, young people and their families.

Our Corporate Parenting duties guide our strategic and individual child-centred plans. In line with this we do support each young person in a person-centred way and break down 'care experienced' in terms of the individualised and targeted support for children and young people.

Corporate parenting duties include for example, being alert to things that are harming or may harm a child or a young person's wellbeing, assessing children and young people's needs for support and services, promoting children and young people's interests, seek to provide children and young people with opportunities to take part in activities designed to promote their wellbeing and to help them make use of services and access support.

On an individual basis, each care experienced child and young person has a team around them, or if they are over 21 access to Throughcare and Aftercare support. We know these children and young people all have the same core needs: love, nurturing relationships, support, understanding, care and respect. However, we see and treat every young person as an individual with their own unique talents and circumstances, therefore staff will always adopt a person-centred, strengths-based approach based on the Getting it Right for Every Child Practice model. This ensures that individual needs are identified, and interventions are positioned to meet those individual needs.

There are clear review processes in place for each child or young person to make sure plans are on track and that they are thriving. In addition, we have also adopted nurturing and trauma-informed approaches, alongside models which place the views of children, young people and their families firmly at the centre of all planning and decision-making.

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The Promise gives a clear indication of the importance of the needs of the wider care experienced community both individually and collectively. When we look at targeting support to groups of care experienced children, young people and their families, we take into account their unique circumstances. We do our best to ensure our support to the care experienced population is equitable. This is also true when redesigning services, interventions, improvement programmes and developments.

We include a broad range of young people with different experiences of the care system in our strategic and operational groups – a good example of this is in the membership of our Promise Operational Group (PROG) and our local Promise Board which are co-chaired by care experienced young people.

We also include young people in supporting how we best use resources. For example we established a 'Get Connected Fund' where our Champions Board, a group of care experienced young people, review applications made for funding, and base decisions for awards to individual young people on their own knowledge and experience, with the support and professional guidance of staff.

In summary the local authority do tailor supports to individual care experienced children and young people to meet their individual needs and ensure we all discharge our duties as Corporate Parents.”

## **Question**

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

“RPI is currently at 11.1%. As a member of COSLA Leaders, can the Council Leader inform us what they would deem to be a fair pay settlement, and can they outline how they intend to deliver that fair pay deal for North Ayrshire Council staff who like everyone are being impacted by the cost-of-living crisis?”

## **Response**

Councillor Burns will respond.

## **Question**

(6) a question by Councillor T. Ferguson to the Cabinet Member for Place in the following terms:

"Can the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Place provide an update into the planned walking and cycling routes projects and timescale for delivering on this SNP local government manifesto promise for the North Coast?"

### **Response**

"The currently funded proposals in the North Coast are summarised as follows:

A study examining the coastal path between Largs Yacht Haven and Aubrey Park is currently underway. This will cover the feasibility and design elements of a project to improve route legibility and support tourism potential. This is being conducted alongside the ongoing development of the Largs Seawall upgrade proposals to investigate whether there are any feasible and appropriate opportunities arising from the Seawall upgrade. Funding opportunities to support delivery of the enhanced coastal path will be investigated through the feasibility report process. The feasibility work report will be completed by October 2022.

Work continues in partnership with Sustrans on the Fairlie Coastal Path. Sustrans have applied to Transport Scotland funding to deliver the final phase. The funding has been approved in principle and we are awaiting a formal award letter prior to completing detailed design, tender and construction.

The Local Transport and Active Travel Strategy is currently in development. This will identify priorities for future investment in active travel including across the North Coast. Initial consultation was undertaken between February and April 2022. The output from this is informing the development of the draft strategy. This will be the subject of a 12-week consultation in Summer 2022 including Elected Member sessions after recess. A Cabinet report is planned for early 2023 to consider the final Strategy. Funding applications will be informed by the adopted Strategy going forward."

## Question

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

"To ask the Cabinet Member for Education how many teaching and non-teaching posts are funded through the Attainment Challenge Fund?"

## Response

"Detailed below is the current FTE of teaching and non-teaching staff employed across the Strategic Equity Funding (SEF) workstreams (SEF being £43 million to be shared by all 32 local authorities to invest in approaches to achieving the mission of the Scottish Attainment Challenge (SAC)) :

	<b>2021/22 FTE (as at 14/6/22)</b>		
	<b>Teaching</b>	<b>Non-Teaching</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>PLA</b>	25.60	2.00	27.60
<b>Nurture</b>	28.46	30.06	58.52
<b>MHWB</b>	2.00	0.00	2.00
<b>Family Learning</b>	0.00	9.60	9.60
<b>Data</b>	0.00	2.00	2.00
<b>Leadership</b>	1.00	1.00	2.00
<b>Attainment HQ</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<b>57.06</b>	<b>44.66</b>	<b>101.72"</b>

## Question

- (8) a question by Councillor McLean to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Islands in the following terms:

"Can the Cabinet Member for Place (i) advise what assessment has been done on the viability of Irvine Tennis Club (SCIO) business plan, in order to show that it will be a sustainable club, and not become dependent on grant funding, (ii) confirm whether he has read the 'strong business plan' of the club, (iii) provide clarification on the 'external sources of funding' referred to in the Cabinet report and (iv) say whether he is concerned at losing over £100,000 in property value?"

## Response

"The CAT process involves a range of NAC Officers, each with a specific expertise. These Officers carry out an assessment of all CAT applications and give feedback on their area of specialism.

The Business Plan and the Financial aspects of Irvine Tennis Clubs application were scrutinised by staff in the Business and Finance teams respectively. Their feedback then formed the basis of the report to Cabinet.

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The above also included feedback on the fee associated with the asset transfer, with Finance providing a balanced view of any potential capital receipt against the social return on investment. Officers agreed that, based on the location and the status of the site in the Local Development Plan (limited potential for any other kind of usage) the fee levied represented a good return on investment. A CAT allows the community to make enhanced use of the designated open space with a move towards a sustainable tennis provision in Irvine in a way that is in keeping with the ethos of the Community Empowerment Act.”

### **Question**

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

“Given that the SNP did not publish a local manifesto for North Ayrshire ahead of May’s election, can the Leader of the Council advise when they will publish a political programme that their minority administration intends to deliver on?”

### **Response**

Councillor Burns will respond.

### **Question**

(10) a question by Councillor T. Ferguson to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Islands in the following terms:

“Can the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Place provide an update into the planned projects to provide more sporting, leisure and cultural opportunities projects and timescale for delivering on this SNP local government manifesto promise for the North Coast?”

### **Response**

“North Ayrshire is proud of the vibrancy of community life across the authority, including in the North Coast and Cumbraes. Along with our community partners, the key deliverers of sporting, leisure, and cultural opportunities are North Ayrshire Council and KA Leisure.

Appendix 1 contains an overview of current and planned activity in the North Coast and Cumbraes by North Ayrshire Council and KA Leisure, with updates on the work of community organisations where relevant””

## Question

(11) a question by Councillor D. Reid to the Cabinet Member for Place in the following terms:

“To ask the Cabinet Member for an update on the B714 upgrade?”

## Response

“The B714 upgrade project is progressing. Project development funding of £1,212,000 to support the project to Outline Business Case (OBC) stage has been received. Further funding allocations will be subject to the OBC approval with a potential 12-week approval period.

A tender exercise was undertaken for the road design which saw road design specialists, Aecom, appointed in April 2022. This appointment will initially focus on discussion with landowners to identify a preferred alignment. Discussions have now commenced with landowners and will continue throughout the design process. The work programme includes: surveys, including ecological surveys; environmental scoping; outline design; consultation with landowners, interested parties and utilities; ground investigation; initial safety audits; the planning process; and biosecurity requirements.

/A parallel landowner negotiation and Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) process will be undertaken to ensure that land acquisition can be achieved and the project delivered within the funding timescales. This is due to the length of the route, number of landowners and timescales for delivery. The preference will be to negotiate and reach agreement with the landowners on the purchase of the land. Council approval will be sought for the CPO process as necessary.

The Walking, Cycling and Horse Riding Audit to inform the Business Case is currently underway with engagement sessions planned in late June 2022. Furthermore, £0.1m has been secured from SPT’s Capital Programme to develop the designs for the active travel links.”

## Question

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

“In June 2021, Cabinet approved £500,000 of investment to improve coastal play parks. £80,000 from this fund has already been announced for the project led by the community group SALT at Winton Circus, Saltcoats. Can the Cabinet Member outline how the rest of the fund will be invested and when each project is estimated to start?”

## Response

“The Council has £500,000 allocated to coastal play parks and also received £235,000 from the Scottish Government to be allocated for inland play parks.

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A phased approach has been agreed for the installation of the equipment.

The SALT project equipment has already been procured as it was a supply only contract, the final tender price was £109,288. The SALT group has raised separate funding to pay for the installation.

It is expected that the Winton Circus, Saltcoats play equipment will be delivered and installed within a 2 to 3 month time scale.

A separate procurement tender has been issued for the remaining equipment on a supply and installation basis. The tender return date was 17 June 2022. Tenders will be evaluated and a suitable bidder appointed.

The tender spec and equipment to be procured was developed following a consultation exercise with local communities to identify suitable play parks and equipment.

The play park consultation was two-fold. This involved a number of local ward member meetings from August to October 2021. A further community consultation took place mid-December 2021 to the end of January 2022 and was based on an e-survey and paper consultation. There were 791 responses received.

The exact time scale for the remaining projects can only be identified once a bidder has been appointed, however it is anticipated installations will commence around August 2022 running through to spring 2023.”

## **Question**

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

“Since November 2016, North Ayrshire Council has paid the updated real Living Wage to its staff from the date of announcement, normally announced in November at the start of Living Wage Week. This year, in light of the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, the Living Wage Foundation are bringing forward the announcement to September. Will the new administration match the previous Labour administration’s commitment and put the updated real Living Wage into Council staff’s pockets from the date of announcement in September?”

## **Response**

Councillor Larsen will respond.

## Question

- (14) a question by Councillor McPhater to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Islands in the following terms:

“On 30 November 2021, the previous Labour Cabinet confirmed an additional £3million would be added to the Community Investment Fund they established in 2017. Can the Cabinet Member confirm the level of uncommitted funds still available in the Community Investment Fund?”

## Response

“The table below summarises the uncommitted funds by locality and the total uncommitted funds remaining as at 12 June 2022.

<b>Total starting budget</b>	<b>Uncommitted funds</b>	<b>5,600,000</b>
Irvine	1,292,073	
Kilwinning	464,810	
3 Towns	750,380	
Garnock Valley	626,000	
North Coast	636,876	
Arran	148,774	
<b>Balance remaining</b>	<b>3,938,913</b>	

## Question

- (15) a question by Councillor McDonald to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Islands in the following terms:

“Can the Cabinet Member advise when the previously approved £350,000 Green Participatory Budgeting initiative will be launched?”

## Response

“Research into potential delivery models and best practice examples is being undertaken in respect of designing options for a Participatory Budgeting approach to Crowd Funding Environmental Works. This work is ongoing and when concluded will inform the basis of our approach.”

## Question

- (16) a question by Councillor D. Reid to the Cabinet Member for Education in the following terms:

“North Ayrshire Council is financially contributing to Ayrshire College’s Future Skills Hub project in Kilwinning. Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the project?”

## Response

“The North Ayrshire Future Skills Hub is a transformational project being led by Ayrshire College. North Ayrshire Council, with others, are contributing towards the funding package in place.

Ayrshire College has secured an overall funding package of £2.55m. Of this funding package £0.200m is from North Ayrshire Council. Ayrshire College has put in funding of £0.850m. The other funders are Magnox Socio Economic Panel, the Scottish Funding Council and the Ayrshire College Foundation.

The contract for constructing the Hub has now been awarded to a local construction firm. The construction work is due to commence in July 2022, with the facility being handed over to the College by August 2023.”

## Question

- (17) a question by Councillor McPhater to the Cabinet Member for Place in the following terms:

“With the demolition of the back of the King’s Arms, can the Cabinet Member confirm when the Council house development will start?”

## Response

“Planning permission and listed building consent have been granted for the main project. Works are planned to commence during Winter 2022/23, following appropriate consultation.”

## Question

- (18) a question by Councillor Foster to the Cabinet Member for Economy and Climate Change in the following terms:

“Earlier this year the Council consulted on the first phase of the concept design for the Great Harbour project in Irvine. Can the Cabinet Member responsible advise us when the results of that consultation will be shared with Elected Members and when can we expect phase 1 of the project, which focuses on the Coastal Hub including the new play facility, to commence?”

## Response

“A report of the findings from the consultation is being concluded for publication on the Locality Planning website shortly. The findings have been reflected in the design brief for the new play facility which is under development. Current timescales for the commencement of works on this hub of the maritime mile are expected in winter 2022/23.”

## Question

- (19) a question by Councillor Montgomerie to the Cabinet Member for Place in the following terms:

“In June 2021, Cabinet approved investment in Coastal infrastructure such as new street furniture. Can the Cabinet Member itemise how this funding will be invested and when?”

## Response

“The £250,000 for street furniture has been allocated into 4 areas:

- Benches
- Picnic Benches
- Bins
- Water Safety Signage

The tender for benches and picnic benches was awarded in June 2022 and delivery of the benches and picnic benches will commence in batch deliveries within the next 8 weeks.

The tenders for the provision of Bins and Water Safety signage were progressed as separate procurement exercises.

This will see important water safety signage erected in coming months at locations across North Ayrshire. The intention is to update signage at all relevant locations.

There is a desire from Water Safety Scotland to standardise signage and safety messages across the country and we are currently awaiting confirmation of those messages from Water Safety Scotland so that we can tender for this as a quick quote.

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In respect of bins an additional 51 bins will be provided within the next 6 weeks to assist in dealing with extra demand.

There are 115 new benches and 41 new wheelchair accessible picnic benches being procured.

To minimise disruption the contractor will remove one and replace one, so there is no shortage of assets available to the public.”

### **Question**

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

“To ask the Cabinet Member for Place what impact the delay in the construction of Moorpark Primary School will have on the subsequent Council house development on the adjacent site?”

### **Response**

“The new Primary School and Council house construction projects are being managed and progressed separately, therefore, current delays to the Primary School do not have impact on the delivery of the Housing project.”

### **Question**

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

“Can the Leader of the Council advise when the Ardrossan Ministerial Taskforce last met?”

### **Response**

“The last meeting of the Ardrossan Ministerial Taskforce was held on 23 February 2022. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 28 June 2022.”

### **Question**

(22) a question by Councillor McDonald to the Cabinet Member for Place in the following terms:

“The construction of the new Montgomerie Park Primary School and Early Years Centre has been delayed by a full 12 months. What reassurances can the Cabinet Member provide my constituents in Montgomerie Park that there will be no further delays to this important project?”

### **Response**

“The current challenges within the construction industry as a result of a number of global events have been widely reported and impacted projects across the country. In terms of the new Montgomerie Park Primary School, the impact of these external factors has been the primary cause of the original August 2023 date becoming unachievable.

The revised programme plans for the school to be opened for the start of the 24/25 academic year. All parties are committed to meeting this date and continue to navigate through the complex landscape arising from the current market situation.”

### **Question**

(23) a question by Councillor Cullinane to the Cabinet Member for Finance in the following terms:

“The last Medium Term Financial Outlook (MTFO) report, covering the period from 2022/23 to 24/25, projected a gross funding gap of £39million. Can the Cabinet Member advise what initial assessment has been made on the impact that the Scottish Government’s spending review will have on the planning assumptions behind the MTFO?”

### **Response**

“The planning assumptions incorporated in the Medium Term Financial Outlook report approved at Council on 16 February 2022 included a 1% reduction in core revenue grant, a 3% increase in pay award and a 3% increase in council tax for the years 2023/24 and 2024/25. When the General Revenue Budget for 2022/23 was approved at Council on 2 March 2022 this outlined projected funding gaps of £10.729m and £8.785m for 2023/24 and 2024/25 respectively.

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The Scottish Government Resource Spending Review was published in May 2022 and outlined priorities across a number of areas, including, addressing child poverty (including the cost of living crisis), climate change, economic transformation and stronger public services. Significant additional investment has been included in the areas of Health and Social Care and Education and skills portfolios over the term of the Scottish Parliament. From a local Government perspective the level of overall financial resources are set to be maintained at 2022/23 levels until 2025/26 and then a further £100m included for 2026/27. The Spending Review also confirmed that the additional £120m allocated late in the 2022/23 Budget will be baselined in the budget moving forward and not be one-off as previously stated.

Ultimately the level of financial settlement for North Ayrshire will only be known following the parliamentary budget process later in the year. The spending Review has indicated what is in effect an overall flat cash level of finance for local government over the next 3 years whilst also committing to maintain investment from other portfolios. Therefore, the level of settlement will likely present challenges for North Ayrshire Council when set within the context of cost pressures and pay awards due to staff. However, the planning assumptions set out within the Medium Term Financial Outlook report already assume a prudent funding landscape. The Budget process for 2023/24 is currently being progressed and further updates will be provided to members later in the year.”

## **Question**

(24) a question by Councillor D. Reid to the Cabinet Member for Place in the following terms:

“Last June, Cabinet approved £830,000 for Town Centre Living Pilots at Bank Street, Irvine and Howgate, Kilwinning to repurpose vacant buildings into housing. At the end of the financial year, £150,000 had been committed to the project, with the remaining £680,000 reallocated to other projects, including fully funding the West Kilbride shopfront improvement scheme, but with a commitment to reallocate the full £680,000 in 2022/23 for the Town Centre Living Pilots. Can the Cabinet Member outline a timeline for committing the £680,000 during 2022/23 to support this important pilot project?”

## **Response**

“The Regeneration Delivery Plan Funding Proposals report approved by Cabinet on 7 June 2022 confirmed the reallocation of £680,000 from the 2022/23 Place Based Investment Programme to the projects at Bank St and Howgate.

The report is available on the Council’s web site.

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The draft Programme for 36 Bank Street will see Planning and Building Warrant applications commencing this year, alongside the tendering process. It is anticipated, subject to the ongoing pressures and demands within the construction industry, that the project will be tendered in the early parts of 2023 with construction taking place from mid 2023 and likely to be on site for around 12-18 months, with site completion anticipated in summer 2024.

An application has also been submitted to the Vacant and Derelict Land Investment Programme for £0.4m towards the Bank Street project, which would enable the project to be delivered to an enhanced energy standard.

The Feasibility Study for Howgate will conclude in August 2022, which will:

- Identify residential led redevelopment options for the site.
- Establish whether a project is viable.
- Assist in the development of other project documentation such as the business case, funding application, project execution plan and strategic brief.
- Enable us to map development potential, and consider any barriers to development

The recommendations of the feasibility study will inform the Council's next steps and approach to the Howgate site."

## **Question**

(25) a question by Councillor McPhater to the Cabinet Member for Place in the following terms:

"Following the transfer of the Council's commercial estate function to the Economic Development team, a review of the commercial estate, with the intention of repurposing vacant properties, was being carried out. Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the review and confirm whether the Administration remains committed to pro-actively repurposing empty properties within our commercial estate to bring them back into productive use, including the plans for a social enterprise hub at Bridgegate, Irvine?"

## **Response**

"The transfer of the commercial estate referred to is designed to allow for an enhanced synergy with our business' needs and our Regeneration priorities. The review of the commercial portfolio has identified a number of potential opportunities for developing our commercial estate function and the transfer of functions is progressing well.

We are actively looking at options for a number of Council owned units, including the ones at Bridgegate, to see them being brought back in to use. Opportunities including repurposing and the potential for social enterprise hubs is very much part of our considerations.

Engagement with a number of interested parties is ongoing."

## Question

(26) a question by Councillor Montgomerie to the Cabinet Member for Place in the following terms:

“To ask the Cabinet Member for an update on the Place Framework being developed in Saltcoats, Largs, Kilwinning and the Garnock Valley, including the total investment in the projects?”

## Response

“Work is continuing to develop the Place Frameworks.

Baseline data has been collated and desktop research and initial mapping is complete. Thematic Workshops were carried out during April with internal stakeholders invited to contribute to discussion on each theme, these included: Open Spaces, Getting Around, Communities Health and Wellbeing, Key Sites Buildings and Assets and the Local Economy.

Engagement took place with local schools during early May when filming in each of the towns was carried out to set the scene for discussions during planned wider consultation events.

Public consultations events have taken place in Saltcoats (23 May) and Kilwinning (24 May) with some of the school children attending further engagement sessions at these events.

The Largs events originally planned for late May and some of the evening events for Kilwinning had to be rescheduled due to unforeseen circumstances. It is anticipated these will be rescheduled in coming weeks, with dates currently being finalised.

A number of local projects linked to Place Frameworks have been allocated grant funding from the Communities Project Fund. These include a grant of £20,000 for the Splash group to develop a feasibility study for the outdoor saltwater pool in Saltcoats, a grant of £6,314 For the Kilwinning Community Sports Club to develop Almswall Community Kitchen – Kilwinning Can Cook and also a grant of £7,577 for Saltcoats Link Up Group via TACT (The Ayrshire Communities Trust) for installation of artworks/ murals in the town. A further round of grant funding is proposed which will be informed by the output of the community engagement sessions.”

## Question

(27) a question by Councillor McDonald to the Cabinet Member for Place in the following terms:

“Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the planned Bourtreehill Village regeneration project?”

## Response

“Architects have been appointed to prepare development proposals following consultation feedback to date with a wide range of internal and external stakeholders on the housing, retail, community and open space provision. It is anticipated that a draft plans consultation event with all relevant stakeholders will take place in late summer/early autumn 2022, with construction works commencing in summer 2023.”

## Question

(28) a question by Councillor Cullinane to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:

“What is the Administration’s position on Greenports?”

## Response

Councillor Burns will respond.

## Question

(29) a question by Councillor Foster to the Cabinet Member for Economy and Climate Change in the following terms:

“Cabinet agreed in November 2021 to develop a joint bid with South Ayrshire Council to the second round of the UK’s Levelling Up Fund for up to £40million to create new commercial business space and associated active travel infrastructure. Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on that joint bid?”

## Response

“The LUF funding application is currently in the final stages of preparation, as a joint bid with South Ayrshire Council.

Contd/

The NAC element of the project is comprised of the delivery of:

- Two additional Pavilions at Annickbank, Irvine
- A further unit at Kyle Road, Irvine Industrial Estate
- Construction of Flexible space at i3 Enterprise Area
- Active travel links between the three sites and existing networks
- Improved electric vehicle infrastructure

The application will be submitted to UK Government for the deadline of 6 July.”

### **Question**

(30) a question by Councillor McDonald to the Cabinet Member for Place in the following terms:

“Last year the Council commissioned the Remade Network to explore opportunities for reuse and repair projects in North Ayrshire. Unfortunately, their report was not completed in time to come to Cabinet before the end of the last term. Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the project?”

### **Response**

“The Remakeries research by the Remade Network has recently been completed and we are now considering the options and recommendations outlined in the report. These will be considered over the summer months.”

### **Question**

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

“The Ardeer STEP project was subject to a Cabinet report on 31st August 2021, that was not called in by any Elected Member. However, during the election campaign, SNP candidates, including the Council Leader, tweeted in response to the “Refuse Ardeer Fusion” campaign that, “SNP candidates are aware of local support for this but are sceptical of it coming to North Ayrshire. Can the Leader of the Council now clarify what the Administration’s position is on the STEP bid”.

### **Response**

Councillor Burns will respond.

## Question

(32) a question by Councillor McPhater to the Cabinet Member for Place in the following terms:

"Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on plans to develop Council houses at the Ayrshire Central site, including the number of units currently planned and the estimated start date?"

## Response

"The latest SHIP includes 171 units at the Ayrshire Central site. Work has been progressing over the last six months to develop site layouts following discussions with Historic Environment Scotland on the former maternity unit, detailed analysis of the housing register and consideration of wider community impacts. The latest site plan shows an increased capacity of 202 units. Draft plans consultation is scheduled to take place in August 2022. The estimated site start date is currently spring/summer 2023, with works scheduled for completion in spring/summer 2025."

## Question

(33) a question by Councillor Foster to the Cabinet Member for Place in the following terms:

"Can the Cabinet Member confirm when the next strategic housing investment plan will come to cabinet for approval?"

## Response

"The Council's Strategic Housing Plan 2022-27 was approved by Cabinet on 2 November 2021. The SHIP 2023-28 is scheduled to be presented to Cabinet on 1 November 2022, prior to submission to Scottish Government for their approval."

## **Appendix 1 (in respect of the response to question 10)**

### **North Ayrshire Council Library Summer Programme**

The traditional universal summer children's activity programme will be delivered in summer 2022. This will see the delivery of a wide range of events and activities aimed at primary and pre-school children. Activities include arts and craft days, science days, DigiDabble sessions, visits from the Countryside Rangers, Bookbug and storytelling, board game challenges, Lego events, themed days and the traditional treasure hunts and quizzes.

### **70 Stories – West Kilbride Library**

As we implemented the actions resulting from the review of Libraries Halls and Centres, the upper floor of West Kilbride Library has taken on a new role within the community. The ground floor now includes a refurbished children and young people's area and IT area, with new shelving in the adult area.

West Kilbride Initiative initially partnered with Information and Culture to deliver 70 Stories - part of the programme of Year of Stories. This involved the Initiative supporting the service as we film individuals sharing their amazing stories. 70 local people who have served their local communities have been selected to take part to create the archive.

Following this initial work, the group was then successful in a CIF application, awarded by the North Coast LPP, to build on the 70 stories work and create training and employability routes into digital arts.

### **Heritage, Arts and Cultural Team Millport**

The Heritage and Culture Team continue to operate the accredited Museum of the Cumbraes hosted within The Garrison. At the start of 2022 we upgraded the exhibition space to allow greater opportunities for exhibitions. This has already proven a success and we continue to have requests for the space. This has allowed more visual art exhibitions to be programmed as well as a space for local artists to share their work. There are two exhibitions currently on display.

We are in the process of investing resources to relocate the artefacts store to a more suitable location within Garrison House which will result in more of the museum collection being readily accessible for the public to enjoy.

An exhibition programme is currently being finalised which will see the museum exhibitions being regularly changed to give visitors a different museum experience each time they visit.

### **Millport Town Hall**

The Team has been working with the Heritage sub-group of Millport Town Hall as they plan the creation of a Heritage Hub in the basement of the hall. The close partnership will ensure that the space complements the current museum and widens the cultural offer to visitors and the local community alike. The team will be part of the support network for the Millport Town Hall committee as they proceed with their funding bid for the heritage centre and will assist and support them to create their heritage content. We also recently worked with colleagues in Education to create a STEM Trail on the island. This was financially supported from the Outdoor Experiences money made available in the 2020/2021 budget.

Other ongoing developments on Cumbrae are:

- the inclusion of heritage interpretation and art as part of the flood defences;
- a heritage mural on the old toilet block at the pier; and
- upgrading of the Heritage Trail.

### **West Kilbride**

The Heritage team is working on a project that combines the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with the themed Year of Stories. Called "70 Stories" we are gathering the stories of 70 unsung heroes from around North Ayrshire who have voluntarily given their time to their local community. We are working with a local film production company who will record the stories. They will then be added to the Council's heritage digital archive where they will be stored for future generations to enjoy and learn from.

Heritage staff work closely with the independent museums at Largs and West Kilbride, offering support through the North Ayrshire Museums Forum. In addition, staff are official mentors to West Kilbride Museum as they are an accredited museum and we regularly attend meetings and give curatorial advice.

With a rich variety of creative and artistic groups in West Kilbride, (Scotland's Craft Town) the community has access to a wide variety of cultural opportunities. With The Barony Centre at the heart of the town offering outstanding exhibition space and a programme of talks, many classes are run from there, and the local community centre and the village hall. Drama, dance and music classes are all available across the age groups as well as a varied programme of musical performances. Staff have regular meetings with the team at the Barony and there is ongoing support for all the groups in the village.

### **Largs**

The team is working with members of the local heritage community to explore an outdoor museum along the promenade at Largs which will signpost people to visit the other heritage and cultural attractions that the town has to offer.

The Largs heritage trail is being developed. The investment will see the blue heritage plaques and QR codes placed at the main heritage locations throughout the town to encourage residents and visitors to follow the trail, combining heritage with health and wellbeing.

The heritage team is working in partnership with the local community and Historic Environment Scotland to provide heritage interpretation at the site of the Neolithic tomb that is situated behind Douglas Park and is believed to date from 4,000BC. The aim is to protect and raise awareness of this important site.

### **Island Arts Officer**

Through a partnership of funding with Creative Scotland, we have appointed an Islands Arts Officer with a responsibility to assist and support creative groups based on Arran and Cumbrae. This investment will see the local groups and artists develop and build capacity, creative collaboration, sustainable practice, expand the access to cultural opportunities and develop audiences on the islands.

### **Largs Youth Theatre**

The Arts and Cultural Team support two Youth Theatres in Largs. These are well established groups who offer the local communities access to drama provision that includes the opportunity to perform as well as take part in national events and competitions. There are well established progression pathways in order that our young



people can progress through coaching and mentoring opportunities to become Drama Leaders. Skills are also shared in backstage, tech, costume, props and directing, producing, and writing. Financial assistance and access to grants is ongoing to support this work and nurture the aspirations of the young people.

### **Barrfields User Group**

This organisation has been set up to develop, support and promote professional theatre. They aim to provide a professional theatre experience for their local community and the wider community. The Arts & Cultural Team are providing ongoing support and advice to assist in raising the profile of theatre, developing audiences and funding opportunities. Please see also the support offered by KA Leisure.

### **Skelmorlie**

North Ayrshire's newest independent museum is located in Skelmorlie. Called The Secret Bunker, it sits in the hill above the village and is housed in the original underground shelter created during the Cold War. The Heritage and Cultural Team have assisted in the development of the museum and continue to support it as integrates into the local heritage scene. The Secret Bunker was one of 4 official sites for the Beacon Lighting in the Queens Platinum Jubilee at the start of June.

### **Fairlie**

There is an evolving partnership between the Arts and Cultural Team and Fairlie Community Association to host a varied theatre programme. Making use of the Village Hall, several touring productions have visited the village and the children's theatre in particular is well attended. The team will continue to support this venture and consider how it could potentially be expanded to other villages to enhance the cultural offer.

### **Events**

Support, advice and coordination of events sits with the Information and Culture Team. Often a key cultural attraction in our communities, the gala days and yuletide events are critical to our local communities' sense of civic pride and belonging. Larger events such as Largs Viking Festival or the Millport Country and Western Festival are also supported by the team.

### **Active Schools**

sportscotland works in partnership with all 32 local authorities to invest in and support the Active Schools Network. The network consists of over 400 managers and coordinators dedicated to developing and supporting the delivery of quality sporting opportunities for children and young people,

In North Ayrshire, including the North Coast and Cumbraes, Active Schools aims to provide more and higher quality opportunities to take part in sport and physical activity:

- before school
- during lunchtime
- after school

It also looks to develop effective pathways between schools and sports clubs in the local community.

Active Schools has worked with schools for over 12 years providing opportunities for children and young people to get and stay involved in sport. It will continue to make a significant contribution to a world class sporting system in Scotland.

North Ayrshire's Active Schools team is sector leading. Its programmes in relation to leadership, volunteering and inclusion are breaking ground nationally and the North Coast and Cumbraes benefits from all of the above. There is more information available on request in relation to the many current initiatives in our schools and with KA Leisure and community sports clubs.

## **KA Leisure**

### **Multi-Ball at Vikingar**

MultiBall is the world's first mixed reality sports gaming platform. It cleverly combines real-life physical activity with gaming, using touch-sensitive projections.

Using a projector, a lightweight frame, and some balls, you can transform any area into a sports arena. This makes it an ideal, low-impact addition to under-used areas and the old soft play area in Vikingar was converted into the first Multi-Ball facility in Scotland.

The interactive facility is for the old and young and is ideal to get people of all ages active and even has educational games to bring the fun into learning.

The system has been installed and we are currently engaging with local groups and partners to develop a delivery plan suitable for all ages and target groups.

### **Inspire Community Programme**

KA Leisure's Inspire programme continues to expand across North Ayrshire and not only includes sporting activities but also Arts Drama and Dance.

Our current activities for both children and adults in Largs attracted our second highest attendance figures for May after those in Irvine. We will work to develop our programme across the summer ready for a relaunch in August 2022.

Developments in August will include the addition of cultural activities including art and music along with the development of links to Barrfields Theatre Group.

### **Summer Programme**

Our Summer programme during the school holiday break takes place across all six localities in the and includes activities in Largs and Millport. We will also deliver a family fun day event in Largs which will be attended by local groups, sports clubs, and partner organisation to promote local information along with wellbeing advice.

### **KA Leisure - Douglas Park Tennis Club Developments**

Our Community Sport Officer for Hubs has begun early engagement with Ayrshire Tennis to explore the development of the tennis facilities at Douglas Park.

### **KA Leisure - Development of Largs Community Sport Hub (CSH)**

KA Leisure and North Council are committed to the development of Community Sport Hubs in North Ayrshire. As well as providing ongoing support to West Kilbride Sports Club we are currently developing our relationships with and support for clubs in Largs under the banner of Largs Community Sport Hub.

Community Sport Hubs (CSH) is funded nationally by **sportscotland**. They are a collective of local sports clubs & other community organisations that come together to improve the contribution that sport & physical activity has on a community.

The Community Sport Hub approach is to support and empower local people to improve sport & physical activity in communities across Scotland. It starts with understanding the

needs within a community and then collaborating to facilitate and deliver activities and interventions.

Engagement and consultation has started with local clubs and our new CSH officer for Largs and the North Coast will develop an Action Plan for delivery.

### **KA Leisure - Barrfields User Group**

We continue to work with this group both to develop participation and appreciation of both Arts and Culture at Barrfields Theatre and also the smaller auditorium within the visitor attraction.

### **Vikingar Visitor Attraction**

We are currently investigating the opportunity to create engagement and volunteering opportunities around this attraction in a bid to make it a more integrated part of the community of Largs.

### **KA Leisure - Culture, Arts and Healthy Leisure**

At KA we believe there is a massive opportunity in North Ayrshire to join culture, arts and physical activity together under the banner of Wellbeing which of course is one of the main themes of our L.O.I.P. The key focus of the Community Health and Wellbeing Partnership being developed by KA Leisure is that communities in North Ayrshire should be able to access consistent high-quality projects and initiatives that stimulates wellbeing for their mind, body and spirit.