



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

North Ayrshire Council

A Meeting of North Ayrshire Council will be held remotely on **Wednesday, 08 September 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 9 June 2021 and the Special Meeting held on 23 June 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 for the period 31 May 2021 to 29 August 2021 (copy enclosed).

5 Leader's Report

Submit report by the Leader of the Council for the period covering 31 May - 29 August 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 4 December 2020 - 18 August 2021.
- 7 North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board: Minutes of Meeting held on 11 March 2021**
Submit report by Interim Executive Director (Communities and Education) on the Minutes of the meeting of the North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership Board held on 11 March 2021 (copy enclosed).
- 8 Report of the Returning Officer**
Submit report by the Returning Officer on the outcome of the North Ayrshire Council Ward 6 Dalry and West Kilbride By-Election and on the Declaration of Acceptance of Office by the new Elected Member for that Ward (copy enclosed).
- 9 Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies**
The Council is invited to:
1. consider a nomination, proposed by Councillor Marshall and seconded by Councillor Ferguson, for Councillor Stalker to fill a current vacancy on the Licensing Committee and Licensing Board;
 2. note, in terms of Standing Order 7.2, the appointment of Councillor Stalker to the Police and Fire and Rescue Committee in place of Councillor Ferguson, effective from 30 August 2021;
 3. note the appointment of Councillor Stalker to the Spier's Trust, in his capacity as a Ward 6 Member; and
 4. note Councillor Stalker's intention to serve on the Garnock Valley Locality Partnership
- 10 Committee Timetable 2022**
Submit report by the Chief Executive on a proposed committee timetable for the period from January 2022 until the conclusion of the current Administration (copy enclosed).
- 11 Hybrid Meetings**
Submit report by the Chief Executive on progress in terms of the introduction of hybrid meetings (copy enclosed).
- 12 Ardrossan Strategic Regeneration Programme and Enabling Infrastructure Investment**
Submit report by the Director (Growth and Investment) on the progress of a nationally significant development programme in Ardrossan and the infrastructure investment required to enable the regeneration of a major strategic site. (copy enclosed)

13 Processes for Future Consultations

Submit report by the Interim Executive Director (Communities and Education) on how future consultation would address the issues raised during the Review of Libraries, Halls and Community Centres and Development of Community Hubs (copy enclosed).

14 Questions

In terms of Standing Order 12, submit:-

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

“Smoking is one of the voluntary threats to health right across society. I am particularly interested in how smoking has impacted on our young people in North Ayrshire during the Covid-19 pandemic, because whilst the risks to young people of having the Covid-19 and variant vaccinations is reputedly extremely small, taking up smoking has lifetime health implications.

I would be pleased to receive from the cabinet member for Health and Social Care any figures which might be available in relation to young people in North Ayrshire taking up smoking during the Covid-19 lockdowns (period March 2020 – August 2021 or figures as available) and advise of what steps might be taken in North Ayrshire to encourage our young people not to smoke. Secondly please advise of any available figures on the uptake of the Covid-19 vaccination and what steps are being taken to encourage an even fuller uptake by our young people.”

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

“My personal view is that our Waste Management Team in North Ayrshire have done an incredible job of work ensuring continuity of uplift of bins between March 2020 and the present. I would make special mention of the front-line team emptying our bins throughout the pandemic and sincerely thank them for their service during this difficult time. It would be remiss not to also acknowledge the organisational work of our NAC Waste Management team who have had to be innovative to support the front line team through a challenging period.

Can the Portfolio Holder for Green New Deal and Sustainability advise on the current constraints faced by Waste Management in delivering a quality service during still challenging times and in particular make any comment in relation to brown bin uplifts in the Garnock Valley area which seem to be experiencing difficulty in continuity of service as detailed in the NAC calendar.”

(3) a question by Councillor Donald L. Reid to the Cabinet Member for Participatory Democracy in the following terms:

“NAC Connected Communities have been “cautious in their approach to reopening community centres and halls.” They are now open. Whilst this approach is understood, concern has been expressed by some voluntary groups about the detailed form that each group is required to submit, signed by an office bearer on behalf of each group, before they are allowed to resume activities in NAC community centres and halls.

The form, drafted by NAC, headed: “*Conditions for Letting During Covid-19 (Version 6 – August 2021)*” has 28 individual sections which require to be completed. Issues raised by voluntary groups about this form include:

Item 8. I have read, understood and agree to the general terms of let provided to me. This requires once person to comply with the rest of the document.

Item 9. Relates to stopping people entering the hall. An individual volunteer has no right to stop anyone entering any NAC premises or indeed send anyone home who develops Covid-19 symptoms. Nor can a volunteer force anyone to wear a mask.

Item 12. A volunteer involved in running a group may have no knowledge about exemptions for wearing masks.

Item 13. A volunteer can have no control over individuals with regards to maintaining social distancing and has no control over NAC staff on the premises.

Item 14: How is this one individual who has to sign the form, the ability to promote the NHS Test and Protect app with service users?

Item 15: This asks for far too much information. At best it should be a simple contact number for one person.

Item 16: How can one person be expected to keep up with Government guidelines. A volunteer helping to run a group or club based in the community centre has a difficult enough job. It has been suggested that better wording for the section might be: “We can agree to endeavour to keep the guidance issued by the Community Association and North Ayrshire Council. As this is already different from the Government guidelines then it should be only these guidelines we are asked to follow.”

Item 17: A volunteer has no rights to control people entering an NAC building. A volunteer can only advise people to abide by rules set by the Community Association. People can be invited to leave the building in certain circumstances, but a volunteer has no right to evict them.

Item 18: A volunteer has no authority or medical knowledge to question or assess vulnerable people.

Item 19: For reasons already outlined above, a volunteer cannot force people to use the hand sanitiser, only request them to do so. It might be possible to promote the requirements, but difficult to control how this might operate in different parts of the building. Control the use of catch kill it Bins. How do you do that?

Items 20 & 23: A volunteer cannot spray or sanitise all equipment as this could damage the equipment viz camera club equipment. They can only use reasonable endeavours to ensure equipment is safe to use.

Item 25: Contact insurance holder to see if the group is covered for the let. This implies that the volunteer is legally responsible for any claims that might arise by individuals with reference to Corona-virus. Moreover, is there any insurance company that covers claims for Covid-19?

The whole document transfers the responsibility for covid-19 virus control to one individual who may not be knowledgeable about covid-19 and has no medical qualifications. In addition the document applies standards of control that appear to be contrary to government expressed requirements. To comply each group would in reality have to set up a control group who would be monitoring the behaviour of all the members in all parts of the hall during a club meeting.

Although the document is initially stated as a survey it also states “Conditions for letting during Covid 19,” implying it is part of the leasing contract. This is reinforced by statements within the document..

In essence this entire document is problematic for the individual required to sign on behalf of a club, group or organisation.

Put simply it can be sorted by simplifying that the club etc will make its best efforts to comply with the general requirements of the community centre.

Can the Cabinet Member for Participatory Democracy advise if this complex document can be simplified to reduce the onerous duties placed on the individual signing the NAC ‘Regular Lets’ booking form?”

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

“Can the Cabinet Member confirm if any child has been assessed and placed in Early Years at Lockhart Campus?”

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

“To ask the Cabinet portfolio holder for Education to advise this council how many primary and secondary school children in North Ayrshire have received a free laptop or a tablet, and a free internet connection as per the SNP election promises made in May 2021?”

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

“To ask the Cabinet portfolio holder for Education how many school-aged children have received a free bike in North Ayrshire as per the SNP election promises made in May 2021?”

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

“To ask the Cabinet portfolio holder for Green New Deal and Sustainability to advise this council how many trees have been planted by the council in North Ayrshire since this council declared a climate emergency in 2019?”

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

"It has been reported that the Scottish government does not agree with the proposed funding arrangements for the development of Ardrossan Harbour. Reports indicate that the Scottish government wants the port's owner to take a greater responsibility for the funding of the work. At the meeting of North Ayrshire Council in February 2021 we were told that if the work on the development of the harbour didn't start by this summer there is no way that the port would be ready to take the new Glen Sannox ferry, which we are told will come into service in 2022.

Please could the Leader of the Council provide members with an update on what is happening with the Ardrossan Harbour project?"

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

“Consequent on the power-sharing deal between the SNP and the Greens the latter have been empowered to bring forward proposals for rent controls in the Private Rented Sector (PRS).

What benefit , if any , will accrue to the PRS in North Ayrshire?”

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

“Does the Leader of the Council agree that an Elected Member should represent their constituents, constituency and local environment, as best they can, asking questions and raising concerns on subjects that may have an impact or affect on public and environmental wellbeing?”

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

"Can the Leader of the Council please provide any examples of a North Ayrshire Sole Trader winning a tender for work with NAC through the Community Wealth Building Initiative and can you please provide details of how many North Ayrshire Sole Traders or small businesses with one or two employees are on the tendering list?"

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

"Can the Leader of the Council please provide details of any future tourism related investment in the North Coast other than the Millport Flood Defence or Largs Seawall related projects?"

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

“When will North Ayrshire Council have a Policy in place on Motor Homes and Camper Vans?”

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

“Will North Ayrshire Council be reconsidering how public toilets are funded maintained and accessible to members of the public as a result of Covid-19 and the need for public facilities to assist with public hygiene, health & wellbeing and tourism?”

15

Motions

In terms of Standing Order 13, submit:-

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

“MOTION PREAMBLE

While we appreciate that there is high-level planning for future specific projects particularly those associated with the Ayrshire Growth Deal such as the Great Harbour Project and Marine Tourism, there has been little if any involvement by Local Elected Members nor attention to current Tourism issues in the established Tourist resorts.

Currently given the huge increase in the staycation market and noting that Tourism is the main industry of our coastal towns, islands and villages, the Council is failing to scrutinise performance related to tourism related service delivery and the implementation of strategy policy and service plans as they relate to tourism issues.

Specific performance issues that require scrutiny include rural car parking policy, ferry service issues, provision of campervan facilities, operation of high quality public toilets, tourist signage, quality of the public realm along seafronts, etc etc

I have attempted to raise this issue with a senior Officer and a Member of the Council specifically questioning who is in charge of tourism, what is the staffing, what is the budget, how does the Council relate to the Trade and is there support for a Tourism committee or Member Officer working group? Answers came there none.

MOTION

Councillor Marshall seconded by Councillor Ferguson moves that recognising the importance of a reinvigorated tourism market in North Ayrshire, the Council agrees to appoint a Tourism Member/ Officer working group. This Group would comprise Members whose Wards contained significant Tourist businesses and would initially have the following remit

1. to consider and recommend the introduction of new policies or changes to existing management policies to manage tourist pressures through the preparation of a visitor management plan
2. to consider and recommend the introduction of investment priorities for new facilities for visitors and in maintenance of existing facilities
3. to consider the wider socio-economic reports on the impact and value of the tourism sector in North Ayrshire.
4. to develop and review a tourism strategy
5. to report its recommendations to Cabinet periodically."

(2) a motion by Councillor Sweeney, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, in the following terms:

"This council notes:

- 1 in 10 workers have experienced 'fire and rehire' - told to reapply for their jobs on worse pay, terms and conditions or face the sack, with BME workers facing this at twice the rate of white workers, since March 2020 (TUC research, January 2021). A quarter of all workers have experienced a worsening of their terms and conditions – including a cut in their pay - since the pandemic began.
- That while the prime minister has called the practice "unacceptable" he has continually refused to take action to outlaw the practice, raising concerns that he will not intervene in this race to the bottom as an escalating number of employers across all sectors using our weak employment protections employers as they force their staff to accept worse terms and conditions, leaving many having to work longer hours and for lower pay, with what can be devastating consequences for workers and their families.
- Even before the pandemic, 1 in 9 workers – 3.8 million people – were already 'insecure', meaning they did not have access to basic rights at work and could be dismissed at will; including those on zero hour contracts and agency workers.

This council therefore resolves to:

- Ensure local residents are protected against such unscrupulous employers and agrees to ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister demanding he outlaw fire and rehire and act now to keep his promise to local residents to protect their employment terms and conditions.
- Not use fire and rehire itself as an employer and to prevent, where possible, its use by council contractors, and to ensure the council has a procurement practice that ensures we are working with contractors that have good employment, trade union, equality and environmental records.
- Continue to work with the increasing number of progressive local employers prioritising their employees' standard of living and their wellbeing, work with our anchor institutions and key partners to bring forward plans to ensure all have best practice employment and to work with recognised trade unions on this.
- Support the TUC campaign for a 'New Deal for Working People'."

(3) a motion by Councillor Foster, seconded by Councillor McPhater in the following terms:

“On 6th October, over 10,000 families in North Ayrshire (according to a recent study by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation) are set to lose £1,034 per year as a result of the UK Government cutting Universal Credit by £20 per week.

North Ayrshire Council expresses its outright opposition to this cut which will push more families into poverty.

Council agrees:

- that the Chief Executive write to the Chancellor calling for the planned cuts to Universal Credit to be abandoned
- that the Council uses Challenge Poverty Week to campaign against cuts to Universal Credit and for a more humane social security system that provides a dignified standard of living for every citizen of this country”

(4) a motion by Councillor Billings, seconded by Councillor Marshall, in the following terms:

“The Scottish government is currently consulting on its proposals to make permanent many of the temporary Covid restriction powers that were granted at the start of the Covid pandemic. The consultation is titled “Covid recovery: public health, services and justice system reforms” and can be viewed on the Scottish Government’s website.

The Covid pandemic forced us all to review how we work, meet and interact with each other, and there may be benefits in keeping and developing some of these new ways of working. However, other Covid powers severely restrict the rights of individuals and businesses, and it would be inappropriate to make these powers permanent just in case they might be needed. Once powers are enshrined in law history has shown that they will be used and often with little public scrutiny and for purposes that they were not intended for. The Scottish government’s proposals are far reaching and if implemented would affect many aspects of the lives of all of us living in North Ayrshire.

Therefore, this motion proposes that:

- Arrangements are made to enable Members of North Ayrshire Council to discuss and comment on the Scottish government’s proposals regarding making Covid powers permanent; and
- A report on the Scottish government’s Covid powers consultation is brought to the Council meeting on 27th October 2021. The report should include a review of the implications for North Ayrshire Council and include the views expressed by Members of Council on any part of the proposals; and
- Following the Council meeting on 27th October 2021, North Ayrshire Council submits the agreed report as the Council’s submission to the Scottish government’s consultation.”

16 Urgent Items

Any other items which the Chair 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
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
Ronnie Stalker
Angela Stephen
John Sweeney

Chair:

Apologies:

Attending:

North Ayrshire Council
9 June 2021

At a 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, Marie Burns, Joe Cullinane, 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; A. Sutton, Executive Director and R. Arthur, Head of Service (Connected Communities) (Communities and Education); C. Cameron, Director (Health and Social Care Partnership); R. McCutcheon, Executive Director (Place); M. Boyd, Head of Service; (Finance), F. Walker, Head of Service (People and ICT), A. Fraser, Head of Service, A. Craig, Senior Manager (Legal Services), M. McColm, Senior Manager (Communications), H. Clancy, A. Little, D. McCaw and C. Stewart, Committee Services Officers and M. Anderson, Senior Manager (Committee and Member Services) (Democratic Services) (Chief Executive's Service).

Chair

Provost Clarkson in the Chair.

Apologies

Scott Davidson.

1. Provost's Remarks

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

The Provost then dealt with preliminary matters.

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 31 March 2021 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 22 March – 30 May 2021.

The Provost highlighted the following elements of his written report:

- events on 23 March 2021 to pay tribute to those who had lost their lives during the pandemic;
- the recent passing of Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh and the legacy of his Awards scheme;
- attendance at online Irvine Burns Club events, as well as the recording of a special message to mark the day of John Galt's birth;
- the ground-breaking ceremony held on 20 May 2021 to mark the beginning of the construction phase in the refurbishment of Marress House in Irvine as a new Early Years Centre and professional learning and development facility; and
- participation in the (online) opening session of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland on 22 May 2021

On behalf of the Council, the Provost also took the opportunity to extend his very best wishes to Ruth Maguire MSP, who was receiving treatment for cancer, and to Councillor Scott Davidson, who had been unwell.

Noted.

6. Leader's Report

Submitted report by the Leader of the Council for the period from 22 March – 30 May 2021.

The Leader took the opportunity to offer his own best wishes to Ruth Maguire MSP and Councillor Scott Davidson for a good recovery from their respective illnesses.

Noted.

7. Council Minute Volume

Submitted for noting and for approval of recommendations contained therein, the Minutes of meetings of committees of the Council held in the period 29 January 2020 – 1 June 2021.

The Council unanimously agreed to (a) the recommendation of the Police and Fire and Rescue Committee held on 17 May 2021 to approve the Local Policing Plan 2021-23; and (b) otherwise note the content of the Minute Volume.

8. Committee Appointment

In terms of Standing Order 7.2, the Council was invited to note the appointment of Councillor Davina McTiernan to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee as a Member of the main Opposition Group, following the resignation of Joy Brahim as an Elected Member.

Members asked a question, and received clarification from the Head of Democratic Services, on the position with regard to a political group appointment where an appointee became a member of a different political party.

Noted.

9. Elected Member Attendance

Submitted report by the Head of Democratic Services on the circumstances surrounding the non-attendance of an Elected Member and the relevant provisions within the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and the Standing Orders Relating to Meetings and Proceedings of the Council and its Committees.

Members asked questions, and received clarification from the Head of Democratic Services, on the following:

- whether Councillor Davidson's absence was likely to result in quorum issues for any of the committees on which he served; and
- Elected Member attendance levels at meetings of the Kilwinning Locality Partnership and the implications for decision-making on grant applications

The Head of Democratic Services undertook to provide further guidance to relevant Elected Members on the issues raised with regard to the Kilwinning Locality Partnership.

On behalf of the Conservative and Unionist Group, Councillor Ferguson took the opportunity to echo the earlier comments of the Provost and Leader in wishing Councillor Davidson a full recovery.

The Council unanimously agreed as follows:

- (a) to note (i) the exceptional circumstances surrounding Councillor Scott Davidson's non-attendance at any meeting of the Council, Committee, Joint Committee, Joint Board or other body as representative of the Council since the Council meeting on 4 March 2021 and (ii) the likelihood that Councillor Davidson's absence may extend beyond the six-month period; and
- (b) that (i) in terms of Standing Orders and section 35 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, Councillor Davidson failure to attend was due to a reason approved by the Council and (ii) if required, a further update would be submitted to the December 2021 meeting of the Council.

10. Family Leave for Councillors

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a proposed scheme for family leave for councillors, and ancillary changes required to bring this into effect. Family Leave Guidance endorsed by the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) was attached as Appendix 1 to the report. Appendix 2 set out the proposed changes to the Council's Guidance on Members' Salaries, Allowances and Expenses.

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) to introduce Family Leave for Councillors on the terms set out in Appendix 2 to the report;
- (b) that in terms of Standing Orders and section 35 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, failure to attend meetings while on Family Leave be deemed a reason approved by the Council; and
- (c) to amend section 2, paragraph 3(u) of the Scheme of Administration and paragraph 7.2 of the Standing Orders for Meetings to allow Political Groups to appoint a replacement Senior Councillor during the absence of a Senior Councillor on Family Leave, as set out in Sections 2.7 and 2.8 of the report.

11. Review of Libraries, Halls and Community Centres and Development of Community Hubs

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) on proposals regarding the future delivery of library services and community facilities in a community hub model. An analysis of the consultation was provided at Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 set out the proposals for each building.

It was noted that a typographical error at Section 2.30 of the report referred to ‘three’ libraries whose buildings would be retained, rather than ‘four’.

On a point of order, advice was sought and received from the Head of Democratic Services on the proper time for questions and whether Members had the opportunity to ask questions of clarification on the report.

Members expressed their appreciation of the extensive consultation work undertaken and asked questions of clarification of the Executive Director (Communities and Education) on the following:

- the scope of the report in covering library, hall and community centre provision;
- the range of community activities taking place in Dalry Community Centre and whether the facility was still available to book for private events;
- the action which would be taken by officers in the event of there being no expressions of interest in community asset transfer or lease of Brodick Hall;
- feedback received in respect of the consultation exercise and the opportunity to learn lessons from it;
- any additional costs which had been incurred in carrying out the consultation work;
- the support which would be provided to ensure the continued delivery of services in the Towerlands area within the buildings proposed; and
- whether further background information might have been provided at Section 2 of the report to set out the context for the initial review

The Executive Director (Communities and Education) undertook to liaise with Councillor Barr with regard to any confusion around the use of Dalry Community Centre for a variety of community purposes.

Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor McPhater, moved approval of the recommendations set out in the report. As an amendment, Councillor Billings, seconded by Councillor Marshall, moved approval of the recommendations set out in the report, subject to the addition of the following:

- “(c) reviews the criticisms and comments received from respondents regarding the consultation process and reports back to the Council on how future consultation will address the issues raised.”

At the request of the Leader of the Council, and in terms of Standing 14.5, the mover and seconder of the amendment agreed to alter the wording of their amendment to replace the words “criticisms and comments” with “feedback.”

In terms of Standing Order 14.5, the mover and seconder of the motion then agreed to amend their motion to incorporate the terms of the amendment, as revised. There being no other amendment, the motion, as revised, was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Council agreed as follows:

- (a) to note the outcome of the public consultation;
- (b) to approve the proposals detailed in Appendix 2 to the report; and
- (c) to review the feedback received from respondents regarding the consultation process and report back to the Council on how future consultation would address the issues raised.

12. Compulsory Purchase - Flat Ground East, 99 Nelson Street, Largs

Submitted report by the Head of Democratic Services on the proposed compulsory purchase of flat ground floor east, 99 Nelson Street, Largs, being a house and/or land required to provide housing accommodation in Largs.

Members welcomed the report and expressed appreciation of the work being done at this location. Members then asked a question and received clarification on the legal process given that the owner of the property was deceased.

Thereafter, 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 to make the following resolution:

"That North Ayrshire Council resolves in exercise of the powers conferred by Sections 9 and 10 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 and in accordance with the provisions of the Acquisition of Land (Authorisation Procedure) (Scotland) Act 1947 to make a compulsory purchase order to be called "The North Ayrshire Council (Flat Ground East, 99 Nelson Street, Largs) Compulsory Purchase Order 2021" to purchase compulsorily ALL and Whole the ground floor east flat in the tenement known as 99 Nelson Street, Largs, KA30 9JF registered in the Land Register of Scotland under Title Number AYR46847 being property which is required to provide suitable housing accommodation in Largs, authorise and instruct a Proper Officer of the Council to sign the Order and Plan on behalf of the Council; affix thereto the Common Seal of the Council; submit the Order and Plan to the Scottish Ministers for confirmation; give the appropriate notice to the owners and occupiers of the subjects, insert the appropriate notice in the local press and certify to the Scottish Ministers that the subjects (a) do not belong to the local authority, (b) have not been acquired by statutory undertakers for the purposes of the undertaking, (c) do not form part of a common or open space (d) are not held inalienably by the National Trust for Scotland; and (e) are not listed as being of special historical or architectural interest under Section 1 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997, and take all steps necessary to complete the compulsory purchase procedures".

13. Questions

In terms of Standing Order 12, submitted:

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

"How many North Ayrshire Council contracts are let with British Gas?"

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

"On examination of corporate procurement records there are currently no active contracts in place with British Gas. We currently use the Scottish Government framework for gas and electricity with the gas supply contract through Total Gas and Power and the electricity contract through EDF Energy."

As a supplementary question, Councillor Gurney made reference to the involvement of British Gas in a 'fire and re-hire' policy and asked if, in light of this, the Administration would give a commitment to use all of the powers within its procurement rules to 'mark down' any future submissions from British Gas.

Councillor Cullinane responded by advising that, in considering tenders, the Council already scored 'fair work' in the broad sense, and expressed the view that scoring for any future bids for this type of contract would take into account relevant issues such as 'fire and re-hire'.

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

"Can the Cabinet Member confirm the position with regard to Early years provision at the new Lockhart Campus?"

Councillor Bell thanked the Member for her question and responded in the following terms:

"The new Lockhart Campus, which will open for children and young people in August 2021, has been designed to meet the complex and significant additional support needs of children and young people in North Ayrshire. It has been built and designed to accommodate approximately 200 children and can cater for children from the age of 3 to 18.

At the start of every new school session, we consider the children and young people who will be in receipt of our services. This includes pre-school children. Working with our partner agencies, we review assessments and other information, carry out observations and hold planning meetings which involve parents and carers. The plans include the additional support required to enable a child or young person to access the service. For some this will be accessing a specialist resource of which there are several in our schools as well as in the new campus.

Presently, from August 2021, 203 children aged 5 to 18+ will attend the campus following appropriate assessment and planning having taken place.

For the forthcoming session, through the above individual assessments, our local early years centres and classes can meet the needs of the children beginning this stage of their education. Further information about the recent development of early years provision is included below.

The Lockhart campus can and will continue to be able to accommodate early years children who are assessed as requiring to access this facility in the future and this will continue to be determined on an individual basis as at present.”

As a supplementary question, Councillor Larsen made reference to the case of one of her constituents whose two-year-old daughter had been offered only mainstream early years placements, when Lockhart Campus should be in a position to offer 2-18 provision. Councillor Larsen asked on whose authority officers had changed the 2017 Cabinet decision on ASN early years provision and requested that the Cabinet Member look into this issue with a view to providing a solution.

Councillor Bell responded by confirming that each child was assessed on their individual needs and that having additional support needs did not automatically mean a child should go to Lockhart Campus. The Cabinet Member suggested that the aim should be to provide the best setting for children within their own community and referred to the significant investment made in upskilling staff in early years provision across North Ayrshire.

In terms of Standing Order 5.7, the Provost agreed that the meeting be adjourned at 3.35 p.m. for a short comfort break, reconvening at 3.45 p.m. with the same Members and officers present and in attendance.

- (3) a question by Councillor McClung to the Cabinet Member for Participatory Democracy in the following terms:

"Having been approached by a number of constituents who had been unaware of the recently-held Consultation on Halls and Libraries I would like to ask the Cabinet Member for Participatory Democracy what steps were taken to ensure that the residents of Saltcoats knew this consultation was taking place, and what measures were employed to make it viable for interested parties to contribute their views, given that a large number of those who may have wished to do so do not have internet access, or the technical wherewithal to give responses other than in writing."

Councillor McClung intimated that she wished to withdraw the question, as it had been addressed as part of Agenda Item 10 (Review of Libraries, Halls and Community Centres and Development of Community Hubs).

- (4) a question by Councillor Billings to the Leader of the Opposition in the following terms:

"South Ayrshire Council's Siobhian Brown and East Ayrshire Council's Elena Whitham were elected to the Scottish Parliament last month. Both have decided to remain as serving councillors. The Daily Record of 19 May 2021 states that Ms. Brown insisted the cost of a by-election to the public purse made any such move prohibitive. She is quoted as saying: "A by-election (in normal times) has a cost of around £45,000 to the public purse and three-month notice period." "After careful consideration, it is my intention to stand down from my current portfolio but remain as a councillor serving the constituents of Ayr West until the local government elections in May 2022."

Subsequently Councillor Joy Brahim, SNP councillor for Dalry and West Kilbride resigned her post of councillor stating that her work base has moved to Edinburgh. This will trigger a North Ayrshire Council by-election, presumably at similar cost to the public purse as that quoted by Siobhian Brown MSP, followed by another election in May 2022. As Leader of the Opposition, did Councillor Burns try to persuade Councillor Brahim to see out the remainder of her term to avoid the cost to the public purse of a by-election. Can Councillor Burns cast any light on whether this was a consideration in Councillor Brahim's decision?"

In response to a point of order, the Head of Democratic Services confirmed the competence of the question.

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

“Joy Brahim is a young woman whose personal circumstances have changed for reasons that I’m not prepared to go into here because, quite frankly, it’s none of Councillor Billings’ business. I have no doubt that in considering all her options she weighed the implications both for her and for her constituents and that she made what she believed to be the right decision. In those circumstances, it’s not for me to put pressure on her, it’s not the way I operate. Perhaps Councillor Billings’ group operates in that way so Councillor Brahim should be grateful she was in the SNP Group.”

(5) a question by Councillor Murdoch to the Cabinet Member for Post-Covid Renewal/the Islands in the following terms:

"Can the Portfolio Holder for Islands please give exact details of what Shore Based Street Furniture, Footway and Lighting improvements will be provided over and above the Scottish Governments Funding of the Millport Flood Defence and how will it be funded?"

In terms of his Cabinet portfolio, Councillor Montgomerie thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:

“The latest public consultation in relation to the Millport Coastal Flood Protection Scheme has just been completed. This consultation included a comprehensive update on the project including the landscape and heritage aspects and sought community feedback regarding choice of material colour and finish for aspects of the scheme.

The exact details and funding package for shore-based street furniture, footway and lighting improvements will therefore be confirmed once all consultation feedback is gathered and prior to the construction procurement exercise which is scheduled to take place early next year. The £27m funding already allocated to the scheme includes provision for public realm elements which form part of the flood defence measures however there is an opportunity to attract external grant funding, for example via the Heritage Lottery Fund, which is being actively explored for complementary improvements.”

As a supplementary question, Councillor Murdoch asked for an assurance that any street furniture, lighting or surface improvements which were not part of the flood defence scheme budget would be provided by the Council regardless of how it was funded.

Councillor Montgomerie responded by referring to the Ayrshire Growth Deal funding already in place for ‘step ashore’ facilities, advising that this would also contribute to the wider redevelopment of the landside areas.

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

“Can the Leader of the Council please provide details of how North Ayrshire Council will finance the future maintenance of the Maritime Mile/Great Harbour project?”

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

“Cabinet recently approved proposals for investment in the Maritime Mile project at Irvine Harbourside. These proposals are at concept stage.

While these concept plans and the outline business case process have allowed significant levels of funding to be secured through the Ayrshire Growth Deal, more detailed proposals are yet to be developed and these are required to allow analysis of ongoing maintenance costs. The further development of proposals will also require a programme of public engagement.

Ongoing maintenance implications will therefore be considered at the more detailed full business case stage.

It should be recognised that the area is currently maintained by the Council and therefore not all costs will be additional.”

As a supplementary question, Councillor Murdoch referred to the grounds maintenance cuts experienced across all wards in recent years and asked whether Councillor Cullinane would support a low maintenance design for the development to avoid it falling into disrepair in future years.

Councillor Cullinane prefaced his response by expressing a hope that local government funding would be put on a more even keel in future. The Leader assured Councillor Murdoch that the Council would undertake public engagement on the Maritime Mile and the Great Harbour project and support a design concept which delivered on the wishes of the people of Irvine and the wider North Ayrshire communities.

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

“Can the Leader of the Council please provide details of any current and future North Ayrshire Council initiatives to generate general income?”

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

“North Ayrshire Council currently generates around £7million annually from a range of external fees and charges. In recognition of the ongoing impact of the pandemic on citizens and businesses, at the Budget meeting of 4 March 2021, Council chose to freeze fees and charges at 2020/21 levels and not apply the 5% inflationary increase which had previously been planned before the pandemic impacted our lives. With that said however, the Council continues to explore and develop areas of income generation and has a well-established commitment to maximising the use of its assets, including for the generation of income, as part of our Community Wealth Building Strategy published in May last year. Officers are continuing to progress existing initiatives and develop new business cases with a particular focus on those which can contribute to the recovery phase of the pandemic.

Some examples of the Council’s current initiatives in relation to the generation of income include:

- Renewable energy from the recently approved solar PV Farm at Nethermans former landfill site
- Catering
- Cleaning
- Commercial Waste
- Property related initiatives
- Grounds maintenance
- Car parking charges as part of the agreed implementation of Decriminalised Parking Enforcement.

Furthermore, a report will be considered by Cabinet later this month to provide an update on the Council’s proposed roundabout advertising pilot which had been delayed due to Covid but will now progress, as well as details of a further Grounds Maintenance related income generation project.”

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

"Can the Leader of the Council please provide a specific date for the introduction of (DPE) Decriminalised Parking Enforcement?"

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

“In September 2019, full Council agreed that an application seeking the introduction of Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE) across the North Ayrshire Council area should be prepared and submitted to Scottish Government.

A draft DPE application was thereafter submitted to Transport Scotland for assessment in March 2020. Progress of our application has been significantly delayed due to the ongoing pandemic. As a result, we do not anticipate approval of the application and subsequent implementation of DPE in North Ayrshire this Council term."

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

"Can the Leader of the Council please provide an update on the motion to write to the HSE and MAIB regarding an investigation into the incident at Hunterston Parc Jetty on 2nd February 2021?"

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

"The resolution agreed at the Council meeting on 31 March 2021 was as follows:

"North Ayrshire Council calls on the Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB)/Health and Safety Executive (HSE) 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 and 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."

The Head of Democratic Services emailed all Members on 23 April to update us on the responses received from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the Marine Accident Investigation Board (MAIB). He subsequently confirmed to Councillor Murdoch that he could share this response more widely should he so wish. In summary, the position as previously detailed to Members, remains:

- Both MAIB and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) have clarified that of the two vessels concerned only DS4 broke free from its secure attachment to the jetty and was then held by its anchor, which had been pre-deployed as a mitigation measure for such an event. DS8 remained alongside the jetty, albeit with tug assistance, so at no point was either vessel 'adrift'.
- The port operators, Peel Ports, have completed their investigation and have forwarded a copy of their report to MAIB. The vessel's Flag State, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) has commenced an independent safety investigation into the incident, with the aim of learning lessons to help prevent a re-occurrence. The UK is declared as a Substantially Interested State in that investigation, and MAIB Inspectors are working closely with and supporting the RMI.
- MAIB will not carry out its own investigation of this incident. However, in addition to supporting the RMI investigation they will review its investigation report when available. Based on its findings they reserve the right, if necessary, to issue a Chief Inspector's letter and recommendations to any parties whose action or inaction may have contributed to the incident.

- The MCA has confirmed that the vessels do not meet the definition of ‘permanently moored’ and that the MCA, rather than the HSE will take the lead for enforcement of health, safety and welfare provisions on board. The MCA has inspected the vessels. It is understood that enforcement action was taken by the MCA to address specific health, safety and welfare issues on board both ships.
- HSE does not intend to investigate this incident further.”

As a supplementary question, Councillor Murdoch referred to ongoing noise and emissions complaints by local residents and asked whether the Council could take any action to address these.

Councillor Cullinane responded by suggesting that if there were any scope to take action, then officers would already have advised of this.

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

“Will the Leader inform Members of the number of all incidents recorded by Operators of North Ayrshire CCTV service in the financial year 2020/21? The numbers to include responses to contact from North Ayrshire Shopkeepers by Radiolink, observation/review requests by Police Scotland to monitor and record an incident they are attending.”

Councillor Cullinane thanked the Member for his question and responded by citing the undernoted figures and making reference to the associated commentary in the following written response:

Question	Figure	Comment
The number of all incidents recorded by Operators of North Ayrshire CCTV service in the financial year 2020/21	5249	This figure represents the number of times cameras are used to support the actions below. It is high as one incident can be spread across a number of cameras and the CCTV will follow the incident and support Police Scotland either in their response or evidence collection
Responses to contact from North Ayrshire Shopkeepers by Radiolink,	3907	We do not record the exact number of incidents relating to the Shoplink as much of the reporting is between local shopkeepers making each other aware of known local offenders in the area. This figure includes the reports from the Shoplink transmissions passed to Locality Police Officers where there is a confirmed crime has taken place and the requests made via the Police Radio Airwave from the Glasgow Control Room.

Further evidence Review Requests by Police Scotland to monitor and record an incident they are attending	258	These reviews are carried out by investigating officers looking into enquiries (CID etc)
Disclosure Produced for Police Scotland to be used as evidence of Crime and Antisocial behaviour	185	These are the images of crime and antisocial behaviour which Police Scotland can present in court as evidence.

As a supplementary question, Councillor McNicol asked whether cameras were monitored by operators on a 24/7 basis and sought information on the number of operators on duty at any time and any other duties operators might have.

Councillor Cullinane responded by advising that he did not have the relevant details available but would liaise with the Executive Director (Place) to ensure that the requested information was made available to all Members.

14. Motions

In terms of Standing Order 13, submitted:

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

"North Ayrshire Council has had a long tradition of being at the forefront of resettlement programmes when they have been introduced and it is only right that the Council should extend the hand of friendship to those wishing to relocate from Hong Kong to the United Kingdom as part of the Hong Kong British Nationals (Overseas) Integration Programme. Since the programme was announced by the U.K. Government there have been 34,300 applications, with 7,200 visas having been granted so far.

The Hong Kong British Nationals (Overseas) Integration Programme has been implemented to ensure that status holders can receive access to housing, work, and educational support to enable them to quickly integrate and contribute to their newfound communities.

As these areas covered by the funding support remain the responsibility of the devolved administrations £5.8m has been made available to the devolved administrations through the Barnett formula to support councils in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

Additionally, there is a further £5m which will be used to establish 12 virtual welcome hubs across the United Kingdom to facilitate support and provide practical advice and assistance to Hong Kong BN(O)'s applying for school places, registering with GPs, and setting up businesses.

The hubs will collaborate with local authorities and voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) groups to provide face-to-face support where needed, while resources will be made available to local authorities, including FAQs and lessons learned from other integration programmes to share best practice from across the UK.

The move delivers on the UK's historic and moral commitment to the people of Hong Kong who chose to retain their ties to the UK by taking up BN(O) status after the handover in 1997 and provides them with a pathway to live in the UK should they choose to do so.

BN(O) status holders have had their rights and freedoms restricted by the National Security Legislation imposed by the Chinese government in July 2020 and the UK Government believes it is right to change the entitlements in the UK which are attached to their status.

Therefore, we move that the Council:

1. Agrees to work with the United Kingdom Government to ensure the successful delivery of the Hong Kong BN(O) Integration Programme by committing to work with UK Government officials to support Hong Kong BN(O) residents in coming to North Ayrshire.
2. Agrees that a report is brought to Cabinet detailing the up-to-date position on U.K. Government proposals outlining the support which the Council can provide to Hong Kong BN(O) visa applicants.
3. Agrees that the report should include information detailing how North Ayrshire Council can become the directing Council for the virtual hub in Scotland and investigate access to funding streams to support Hong Kong BN(O) residents who take the opportunity to make Scotland their new home."

As an amendment, Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Larsen, moved as follows:

"North Ayrshire Council welcomes those wishing to relocate from Hong Kong to the United Kingdom as part of the Hong Kong British Nationals (Overseas) Integration Programme. Since the programme was announced by the U.K. Government there have been 34,300 applications, with 7,200 visas having been granted so far. Council also welcomes those refugees and asylum seekers, fleeing from danger and life-threatening situations, who have not been so warmly received by this UK Government.

The UK Government cites a historic and moral commitment to the people of Hong Kong but seeks to avoid its legal and moral responsibility to other refugees and asylum seekers by creating a deliberately hostile environment intended to scare away those who might seek help on our shores.

The Hong Kong British Nationals (Overseas) Integration Programme has been implemented to ensure that status holders can receive access to housing, work, and educational support to enable them to quickly integrate and contribute to their newfound communities. Other refugees and asylum seekers must also be given clear pathways to secure immigration status and to access support.

Council therefore instructs that:

1. A report is brought to Cabinet detailing the up-to-date position on U.K. Government proposals outlining the support which the Council can provide to Hong Kong BN(O) visa applicants.
2. The Chief Executive writes to Home Secretary Priti Patel stating our opposition to her proposed “New Plan for Immigration,” condemned by almost 200 organisations as vague, unworkable, cruel and potentially unlawful.”

There followed debate and summing up.

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

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

“That North Ayrshire Council expresses concern:

- a. at the abject failure of Cal Mac to operate an efficient and dependable ferry service to the island of Arran resulting inconvenience to residents, substantial disruption to the holiday trade and the loss of business to the island estimated by the Arran Recovery Group to exceed £2.7m caused by the removal of the Isle of Arran to cover routes elsewhere in Scotland
- b. at the failure to ensure adequate backup for the repeated breakdowns of the 17-year-old Loch Shira which serves Cumbrae
- c. at the lack of effective consultation with islanders regarding the new Glen Sannox resulting in building one ship that is too long (102m) for the quayside at Ardrossan, the consequence of which is greatly increased infrastructure costs
- d. over the lack of decisions regarding the new infrastructure required at Ardrossan resulting in the temporary movement of the ferry service to Troon and the possibility of the ferry service not returning to Ardrossan

- e. regarding the failure of Cal Mac to charter replacement vessels for example the Pentalina which operates in the Pentland Firth and which is available or alternatively approach shipbrokers who have a number of vessels which may suit
- f. the lack of competition in the provision of Ferry services due to the Scottish Government and CMAL and Cal Mac variously owning the shipyard, ferry routes and ferries resulting in an unacceptable standard of service provision. due to the control that the Scottish Government exerts over the provision of ferry services

and agrees to instruct the Chief Executive to write to Mr Matheson, Transport Minister and Mr Dey, Ferries Minister expressing these concerns and requesting a Meeting between them and the Island Members.”

As an amendment, Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Gallagher moved as follows:

“That North Ayrshire Council expresses concern

- a. at the abject failure of the Scottish Government, and its associated bodies, to operate an efficient and dependable ferry service to the island of Arran resulting in inconvenience to residents, substantial disruption to the holiday trade and the loss of business to the island estimated by the Arran Recovery Group to exceed £2.7m caused by the removal of the Isle of Arran to cover routes elsewhere in Scotland
- b. at the failure to ensure adequate backup for the repeated breakdowns of the 17-year-old Loch Shira which serves Cumbrae
- c. at the lack of effective consultation with islanders regarding future vessel requirements, including the decision to build one ship, the Glen Sannox, which the island was assured was being built specifically for operation between Ardrossan and Brodick but which is now deemed to provide a less reliable ferry service without additional works to the infrastructure at Ardrossan Harbour, resulting in increased costs to the project
- d. over the continued failure of Transport Scotland and Scottish Ministers to make decisions regarding the new infrastructure required at Ardrossan Harbour which has resulted in considerable delays to the project which now mean that, subject to there being no further delays in the construction of the ship, the Glen Sannox will be on the route before the work at Ardrossan Harbour can possibly be completed, resulting in a temporary relocation of the ferry service to Troon during the construction period
- e. that to date, legal agreements between Transport Scotland and Peel Ports, and the subsequent agreements between Transport Scotland and North Ayrshire Council that are to follow, remain unsigned with no date set for signing them off

and agrees

- a. to instruct the Chief Executive to follow up the recent letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Michael Matheson MSP, sent in late May, that requested an urgent meeting of the Ardrossan Taskforce be convened to consider a paper on the redevelopment of Ardrossan Harbour, to express the support of full council for that request and to call on Transport Scotland and Scottish Ministers to finalise the legal agreements between all interested parties as a matter of urgency
- b. to include in that letter a request that the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, The Transport Minister with responsibility for ferries and the Cabinet Secretary for Islands, all attend a summit with island groups, businesses and public bodies to discuss the need for a reliable ferry service to serve the Island's needs
- c. to remind Scottish Ministers that following a robust appraisal process in 2016-17, Ardrossan to Brodick was the clear preferred route for the ferry service
- d. not to rule out recommencing the "Keep it A to B" campaign should Transport Scotland and Scottish Ministers continue to delay finalising the agreements for the Ardrossan Harbour works, which raises concerns over the long-term future of the ferry service"

As a further amendment, Councillor Gurney, seconded by Councillor McTiernan, moved as follows:

"North Ayrshire Council notes the lack of progress by all parties in advancing the Clyde ferry routes. Our concerns include:

- the failure of Cal Mac to operate an efficient and dependable ferry service to the island of Arran resulting in inconvenience to residents, substantial disruption to the holiday trade and the loss of business to the island
- the failure to ensure adequate backup for the repeated breakdowns of the 17-year-old Loch Shira which serves Cumbrae
- our disappointment at the specification for the new Glen Sannox and the concomitant alteration works required at Ardrossan Harbour
- the delay regarding the new infrastructure required at Ardrossan resulting in the temporary movement of the ferry service to Troon

Recognising that these are problems that will be solved only by effective partnership working amongst all the parties, Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Chief Executives of Peel Ports, CalMac and Transport Scotland as well as the Scottish Transport Minister expressing these frustrations, impressing upon them the gravity of the situation and making clear that the Council, and in particular the Members representing the island communities, stand ready to meet in order to progress the situation.”

On a point of order, Councillor Ferguson objected to Councillor Gurney’s use of the term “Tories” in the preamble to his motion, on the basis that the language was derogatory. In terms of Standing Order 5.7, the Provost advised that Members in future were recommended to use the term “Conservative” or “Conservative and Unionist.”

Members then debated the motion and amendments.

On a point of order, Councillor Hill queried whether, Councillor Ferguson, having briefly spoken to his motion, could speak again during debate. On the advice of the Head of Democratic Services and in terms of Standing Order 15.7, the Provost permitted Councillor Ferguson to speak if he wished.

Following debate, the movers of the amendments and the motion summed up.

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

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

Accordingly, the Council agreed as follows:

“That North Ayrshire Council expresses concern

- a. at the abject failure of the Scottish Government, and its associated bodies, to operate an efficient and dependable ferry service to the island of Arran resulting in inconvenience to residents, substantial disruption to the holiday trade and the loss of business to the island estimated by the Arran Recovery Group to exceed £2.7m caused by the removal of the Isle of Arran to cover routes elsewhere in Scotland
- b. at the failure to ensure adequate backup for the repeated breakdowns of the 17-year-old Loch Shira which serves Cumbrae
- c. at the lack of effective consultation with islanders regarding future vessel requirements, including the decision to build one ship, the Glen Sannox, which the island was assured was being built specifically for operation between Ardrossan and Brodick but which is now deemed to provide a less reliable ferry service without additional works to the infrastructure at Ardrossan Harbour, resulting in increased costs to the project
- d. over the continued failure of Transport Scotland and Scottish Ministers to make decisions regarding the new infrastructure required at Ardrossan Harbour which has resulted in considerable delays to the project which now mean that, subject to there being no further delays in the construction of the ship, the Glen Sannox will be on the route before the work at Ardrossan Harbour can possibly be completed, resulting in a temporary relocation of the ferry service to Troon during the construction period
- e. that to date, legal agreements between Transport Scotland and Peel Ports, and the subsequent agreements between Transport Scotland and North Ayrshire Council that are to follow, remain unsigned with no date set for signing them off

and agrees

- a. to instruct the Chief Executive to follow up the recent letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Michael Matheson MSP, sent in late May, that requested an urgent meeting of the Ardrossan Taskforce be convened to consider a paper on the redevelopment of Ardrossan Harbour, to express the support of full council for that request and to call on Transport Scotland and Scottish Ministers to finalise the legal agreements between all interested parties as a matter of urgency
- b. to include in that letter a request that the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, The Transport Minister with responsibility for ferries and the Cabinet Secretary for Islands, all attend a summit with island groups, businesses and public bodies to discuss the need for a reliable ferry service to serve the Island's needs

- c. to remind Scottish Ministers that following a robust appraisal process in 2016-17, Ardrossan to Brodick was the clear preferred route for the ferry service
- d. not to rule out recommencing the “Keep it A to B” campaign should Transport Scotland and Scottish Ministers continue to delay finalising the agreements for the Ardrossan Harbour works, which raises concerns over the long-term future of the ferry service”

In terms of Standing Order 5.7, the Provost agreed that the meeting be adjourned at 5.25 p.m. for a short comfort break, reconvening at 5.35 p.m. with the same Members and officers present and in attendance.

- (3) a motion by Councillor Marshall, seconded by Councillor Billings, in the following terms:

“Formal exams for Senior Scottish pupils have been cancelled for the second year in a row in December 2020. The replacement system is called the Alternative Certification Model. The process raises serious concerns over the latest reports of the 2021 SQA examination process, in particular, its assessment and awards process, which has been reported as an ‘unfolding debacle’ by the author of the review into the 2020 SQA exam diet.

We note with concern that:

- a. The Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA) unexpectedly announced a series of smaller exams for every subject, following the cancellation of exams 2020-21.
- b. This has led to schools, including those in North Ayrshire Council, having to create complex timetables to cover the smaller exam diet announced by the SQA.
- c. This raises further concerns that some of the papers have been leaked online and with schools operating differing timetables, exam content has been placed on social media such as TikTok

We move that the Council agrees to write to the Education Secretary to ask what the Scottish Government’s response is to these growing concerns and to seek reassurance that North Ayrshire pupils will not be disadvantaged as a result of the SQA requiring the completion of these exams, following the cancellation of the 2021 Higher level exam diet by the Deputy First Minister in December 2020.”

As an amendment, Councillor Macaulay, seconded by Councillor McClung, moved as follows:

“Formal exams for Senior Scottish pupils have been cancelled for the second year in a row in December 2020. The replacement system is called the Alternative Certification Model (ACM) The council notes that the ACM was designed by National Qualifications Group 2021 (NQG) whose members included EIS teaching Union, Scottish Youth Parliament, and the National Parent Forum of Scotland.

The Council notes:

- a. The Cabinet Secretary for Education has confirmed professional judgement will be exercised by teachers and lecturers to determine learners’ grades. Those grades will not be overturned by SQA unless an administrative error is discovered
- b. Learners will have the right to a free appeal
- c. The announcement from the Cabinet Secretary for Education regarding the reform of the SQA and Education Scotland to further improve Scottish Education
- d. Concerns that some of the papers have been allegedly leaked online and with schools operating different timetables, exam content has been placed on social media such as TikTok. And ask that any evidence of this occurring in North Ayrshire is raised as a matter of concern immediately
- e. Teachers and support staff have gone to extraordinary efforts this year to ensure the safety and wellbeing of pupils, and also continuing to educate and support children and young people’s learning in unprecedented circumstances.

We move that the Council agrees to write to the Education Secretary to seek reassurance that North Ayrshire pupils will not be disadvantaged as a result of the SQA requiring the completion of this ACM, following the cancellation of the 2021 Higher level exam diet by the Deputy First Minister in December 2020.”

As a further amendment, Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Cullinane, moved as follows:

“Following the scandal of last year’s grading system which, before a Government u-turn, unfairly penalised working class pupils because of their background, and as a result of the continued impact of the pandemic on young people’s education, the former Cabinet Secretary for Education, John Swinney MSP, announced on 8th December 2020 that the 2021 exam would be cancelled. In his announcement Mr Swinney stated;

“I will not stake the future of our Higher pupils – whether they get a place at college, university, training or work – on a lottery of whether their school was hit by Covid.

“Exams cannot account for differential loss of learning and could lead to unfair results for our poorest pupils.

“This could lead to pupils’ futures being blighted through no fault of their own.

“That is simply not fair.”

Mr Swinney announced that grades would instead be awarded based on teacher assessments of classroom work throughout the year saying, *“This is safe. It is fair.”*

Council therefore notes with concern that:

- a. The Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA) unexpectedly announced a series of “assessments”, to be sat under exam conditions, for every subject despite the Government’s announcement that exams were cancelled
- b. This has led to schools, including those in North Ayrshire Council, having to create complex timetables to cover the smaller exam diet announced by the SQA.
- c. Some of the papers were leaked online and with schools operating differing timetables, resulting in exam content being shared on social media platforms such as TikTok

At the recent Joint Cabinet meeting, young people spoke of their experience of sitting the assessments and raised concerns about the impact it has had on their mental health and wellbeing. Furthermore, they expressed concern about the outcome of the assessment process and the detrimental impact they fear it could have on their grades.

Council therefore agrees to:

- a. Write to the Cabinet Secretary for Education expressing our concerns about the SQA’s assessment process
- b. Seek assurances that pupils in North Ayrshire will not be detrimentally impacted by this grading system, in a similar manner to the publication of the original grades that were issued last year
- c. Demand that the 2021 appeals process should adopt a no-detriment policy
- d. Express its lack of confidence in the SQA”

Members then asked questions of clarification of the movers and seconders of the motion and amendments.

There followed debate and summing up.

On a division and a roll call vote, there voted for the amendment by Councillor Macaulay, seconded by Councillor McClung, Councillors Burns, Dickson, Foster, Gurney, Hill, Larsen, Macaulay, McClung, McMaster and McTiernan (10), and for the motion by Councillor Marshall, seconded by Councillor Billings, Councillors Barr, Bell, Billings, Clarkson, Cullinane, Easdale, Ferguson, Gallacher, Gallagher, George, Glover, Marshall, McNicol, McPhater, Montgomerie, Murdoch, Donald Reid, Donald L. Reid, Stephen and Sweeney (20), and the motion became the substantive motion.

On a further division and a roll call vote, there voted for the further amendment by Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Cullinane, Councillors Bell, Clarkson, Cullinane, Easdale, Foster, Gallagher, McPhater, Montgomerie, Donald Reid, Donald L. Reid and Sweeney (11), and for the substantive motion by Councillor Marshall, seconded by Councillor Billings, Councillors Barr, Billings, Ferguson, Gallacher, George, Glover, Marshall, McNicol, Murdoch and Stephen (10), Councillors Burns, Dickson, Gurney, Hill, Larsen, Macaulay, McClung, McMaster and McTiernan abstaining, and the amendment by Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Cullinane, was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Council agreed as follows:

“Following the scandal of last year’s grading system which, before a Government u-turn, unfairly penalised working class pupils because of their background, and as a result of the continued impact of the pandemic on young people’s education, the former Cabinet Secretary for Education, John Swinney MSP, announced on 8th December 2020 that the 2021 exam would be cancelled. In his announcement Mr Swinney stated;

“I will not stake the future of our Higher pupils – whether they get a place at college, university, training or work – on a lottery of whether their school was hit by Covid.

“Exams cannot account for differential loss of learning and could lead to unfair results for our poorest pupils.

“This could lead to pupils’ futures being blighted through no fault of their own.

“That is simply not fair.”

Mr Swinney announced that grades would instead be awarded based on teacher assessments of classroom work throughout the year saying, *“This is safe. It is fair.”*

Council therefore notes with concern that:

- a. The Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA) unexpectedly announced a series of “assessments”, to be sat under exam conditions, for every subject despite the Government’s announcement that exams were cancelled
- b. This has led to schools, including those in North Ayrshire Council, having to create complex timetables to cover the smaller exam diet announced by the SQA.

- c. Some of the papers were leaked online and with schools operating differing timetables, resulting in exam content being shared on social media platforms such as TikTok

At the recent Joint Cabinet meeting, young people spoke of their experience of sitting the assessments and raised concerns about the impact it has had on their mental health and wellbeing. Furthermore, they expressed concern about the outcome of the assessment process and the detrimental impact they fear it could have on their grades.

Council therefore agrees to:

- a. Write to the Cabinet Secretary for Education expressing our concerns about the SQA's assessment process
- b. Seek assurances that pupils in North Ayrshire will not be detrimentally impacted by this grading system, in a similar manner to the publication of the original grades that were issued last year
- c. Demand that the 2021 appeals process should adopt a no-detriment policy
- d. Express its lack of confidence in the SQA"

Councillor Miller left the meeting during consideration of this item.

- (4) a motion by Councillor McPhater, seconded by Councillor Cullinane, in the following terms:

"Council notes that the temporary ban on evictions, introduced to protect tenants during the Covid-19 public health crisis, lifts when an area enters Level 2. We know that the pandemic has severely impacted the incomes of many households and it would be fair to assume that rent arrears will have increased during the pandemic.

Council expresses its concerns that unilaterally lifting the eviction ban when an area enters Level 2, when the pandemic is not over and the public health threats of the virus are fluid and ever changing, could result in a spike of eviction notices over the coming months despite the continued risks associated with Covid-19. Council therefore agrees that the Chief Executive write to the Scottish Government requesting they consider additional public health protections, including further financial support, for tenants in Level 2 and below.

In the meantime, Council endorses the Council taking a supportive Eapproach with our own tenants in respect of rent arrears accumulated over the period of the pandemic; adopting an income maximisation first approach to support tenants in accessing financial support as well as exercising flexibility in negotiating repayment plans for rent arrears.

However, Council is concerned that the lifting of the eviction ban will play out differently for tenants in the private rented sector than those in the social rented sector where such supportive approaches are more likely to be adopted. Council therefore agrees to issue public communications outlining tenants' rights and providing advice to those who may receive an eviction notice at this time.

Furthermore, Council praises the work of Living Rent, Scotland's tenants' union, in representing the interests of tenants in both the private and social rented sectors. Council believes the interests of all tenants in North Ayrshire, from all rented sectors, would be enhanced by the presence of a Living Rent branch in North Ayrshire, providing advocacy and support for tenants who join the union. Council therefore agrees to engage with Living Rent on the potential of creating a branch and a joint campaign to recruit members in all rented sectors."

There being no amendments, the motion was declared carried.

The meeting ended at 6.15 p.m.

North Ayrshire Council
23 June 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, Marie Burns, Joe Cullinane, Anthea Dickson, John Easdale, Robert Foster, Alex Gallagher, Margaret George, John Glover, Tony Gurney, Alan Hill, Christina Larsen, Shaun Macaulay, Jean McClung, 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; A. Sutton, Executive (Communities and Education); C. Cameron, Director (Health and Social Care Partnership); R. McCutcheon, Executive Director (Place); K. Yeomans, Director and A. Laurenson, Senior Manager (Growth and Investment); M. Boyd, Head of Service and D. Forbes, Senior Manager (Finance), F. Walker, Head of Service (People and ICT); A. Fraser, Head of Service, A. Craig, Senior Manager (Legal Services), J. Hutcheson, Senior Communications Officer, H. Clancy, A. Little and C. Stewart, Committee Services Officers and M. Anderson, Senior Manager (Committee and Member Services) (Democratic Services) (Chief Executive's Service).

Also In Attendance

G. Duff, Director (Envirocentre).

Chair

Provost Clarkson in the Chair.

Apologies

Scott Davidson, Todd Ferguson, Scott Gallacher, Tom Marshall and Ellen McMaster.

1. Provost's Remarks

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

The Provost then referred to the forthcoming retirement of Andrew Fraser as Head of Democratic Services, taking the opportunity to thank Andrew for his many years of public service and for the advice and support he had provided to Members during that time. Having extended his own best wishes for a long and healthy retirement, the Provost then invited Group Leaders and other Members to add their own remarks.

Councillors Cullinane and Burns as Leader of the Administration and main Opposition, respectively, Councillor Billings on behalf of the Conservative and Unionist Group, Councillor Barr as an Independent Member and Councillor Miller, then took the opportunity to express their sincere thanks to Andrew Fraser for the advice and support he had provided to Elected Members over the years and to extend their good wishes for a long and happy retirement.

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. Remediation of Land at North Shore Ardrossan

Submitted report by the Director (Growth and Investment) on proposals to remediate the long-standing contamination of land at Ardrossan North Shore, which would facilitate and support the development of a new community campus on the site. Appendix 1 to the report provided information on previous site investigations and a Non-Technical Summary of the Ardrossan North Shore Site Investigation by Envirocentre was set out at Appendix 2.

Mr Graeme Duff, a Director of Envirocentre, provided a detailed presentation on the history of the site, the site investigation works undertaken since 2019, the planned remediation strategy and measures to be taken to mitigate against nuisance, and the next stages in the process.

Members then asked a number of questions of clarification of the Director (Growth and Investment), the Director of Envirocentre, the Chief Executive and the Head of Democratic Services, including the following:

- whether infill material would include sand from the Ardeer peninsula;
- the current position with regard to a Special Development Order in respect of the Ardeer peninsula;
- any compensation issues the Council might face in the event of the project not proceeding for any reason;
- the varying depths from which samples had been taken and the pilot trial treatment depths;
- risks associated with volatile contamination, as well as any odour nuisance associated with the removal of a floating layer of hydrocarbons;
- a number of (excess) soil samples which had been left on site;

- whether the remediation works would fully ensure the removal of any risk to human health;
- plans for infilling on the site and whether there was any potential future risk of subsidence;
- the volume of material to be completely removed from the site and where that material would be deposited/processed;
- the bio-remediation process;
- remediation arrangements for materials not subject to bio-remediation;
- the availability of detailed information on sample test results;
- measures to mitigate against any asbestos risk;
- if there was a standard for the construction of schools on contaminated sites and, if not, whether such a standard should exist;
- whether a historical site review had been conducted on the site to establish all previous uses;
- the procurement of sand for use as infill and whether an EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) would be required in the event of the use of sand obtained from the seabed;
- the availability of survey information in respect of the northern part of the site and whether there were any potential hidden adverse health threats for this part of the site arising from decontamination works to other parts of the site;
- future liability issues in the event of a failure to completely remediate the site;
- the rationale for the Council having purchased a contaminated site prior to obtaining all necessary permissions and before completion of remediation works;
- whether purchase of the site represented good value;
- the consultation process undertaken with local residents;
- whether all local Members had been kept up-to-date and were content with the arrangements for engagement;
- confirmation that the land in question was suitable for the proposed use;
- the likely lifespan of the membrane material to be used on site and any future implications for housing developers;
- any proposed increase to the height of the site and the suitability of infill materials to achieve this;
- any flood risks associated with constructing a school at this location;
- plans to enhance the engagement with local residents about the proposals;
- the oversight arrangements for the remediation process;
- measures to ensure adequate funding was in place to carry out the remediation works as proposed;
- whether the previous owners of the site had any unmet responsibilities in terms of remediation works;
- the development of an ongoing communication strategy with local residents and Members;
- the suitability of this site as the location for a new school; and
- reporting arrangements for providing updates on progress with the project

The Leader of the Council was invited to confirm that the planned approach to remediation of the site, as set out in the report, would not be compromised in any way. Councillor Cullinane indicated he was happy to do so.

The Head of Democratic Services undertook to provide further information to Members with regard to the Special Development Order at Ardeer.

At the conclusion of questions of clarification, the Head of Democratic Services sought confirmation of the current position with regard to the site, namely that northern part of the site had already been decontaminated and the western (or seaward) part no longer contained contaminants as a result of previous remediation and/or due to the leeching of hydrocarbons into the sea. Due to the presence of an old sea wall underneath the site, the eastern part of the site contained hydrocarbons, but only to the water table depth of about 4m. The intention was to dig out all contaminated material; skim off any ground water contamination; bio-remediate, test and replace the material; test to ensure the site was clean; and, as 'belt and braces' measures, apply capping, a membrane material and remediate to a higher standard where vegetables could be safely grown in the site. The outcome would be that there would be no risk to public health.

Mr Duff of Envirocentre confirmed the accuracy of this overall summary, subject to noting that the western or seaward part of the site still contained some hydrocarbons. These would be removed and remediated.

Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Bell, moved approval of the recommendation set out in the report.

As an amendment, Councillor McNicol, seconded by Councillor Barr, moved as follows:

“Council agrees not to proceed with the plan to build new schools and leisure facilities on the toxic, contaminated land at the former Shell Mex site in Ardrossan, until a full report has been submitted to the next meeting of Council on the full contamination, financial and other considerations involved in this development. As part of this, the report should consider alternative-safe-sites for these new schools and leisure facilities, and to examine if the land at the Shell Mex site could ever be safely used for any purpose, such as an environmental beach park and walkway. The report should also address why Shell was allowed to walk away from Ardrossan, leaving behind a large area of toxic, contaminated land.”

There followed summing up by the proposers of the amendment and the motion.

On a point of order, clarification was sought and provided by the Head of Democratic Services on the opportunity for debate.

On a division and roll call vote, there then voted for the amendment, Councillors Barr, Glover, McNicol, Murdoch and Donald L. Reid (5) and for the motion, Councillors Bell, Billings, Burns, Clarkson, Cullinane, Dickson, Foster, Gallagher, Gurney, Hill, Larsen, Macaulay, McClung, McPhater, McTiernan, Miller, Montgomerie, Donald Reid, Stephen and Sweeney (20) and the motion was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Council agreed to note the proposals for site remediation as set out in the report.

Thereafter, in terms of Standing Order 5.7, the Provost agreed that the meeting be adjourned at 3.45 p.m. for a comfort break. The meeting reconvened at 4.00 p.m. with the same Members and officers present and in attendance with the exception of Councillors Easdale and George, who had left the meeting during consideration of the last item.

5. North Ayrshire Council Unaudited Annual Accounts 2020/21

Submitted report by the Head of Finance on the unaudited Annual Accounts for the year to 31 March 2021. The Annual Accounts 2020-21 were attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

Members asked a question of clarification of the Head of Finance on the current deficit of the Integration Joint Board and plans to reduce it.

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

Accordingly, the Council agreed as follows:

- (a) to approve the Annual Accounts for 2020/21, subject to audit;
- (b) to note that Deloitte LLP plan to complete their audit of the Accounts by mid-September 2021 and would present their annual audit report to the Council's Audit and Scrutiny Committee by 30 September 2021; and
- (c) to authorise the Audit and Scrutiny Committee to consider, and approve for signature, the audited annual accounts within the required timeframe.

6. Treasury Management and Investment Annual Report 2020/21

Submitted report by the Head of Finance on the Treasury Management and Investment Annual Report and Prudential Indicators for 2020/21. Appendix 1 to the report contained the Treasury Management and Investment Annual Report.

Members asked a question of clarification of the Head of Finance on the reasons for the Housing Revenue Account underspend.

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 to note (i) the Treasury Management and Investment Annual Report for 2020/21 set out at Appendix 1 to the report and (ii) the Prudential and Treasury Indicators contained therein.

7. North Ayrshire Charitable Trusts: Unaudited Trustees' Annual Report 2020/21

Submitted report by the Head of Finance on the unaudited Trustees' Annual Report for the year to 31 March 2021. Appendix 1 to the report set out the Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements for all of North Ayrshire Council's Charitable Trusts.

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 trustees of the North Ayrshire Council Charitable Trusts, to approve the 2020/21 annual report set out at Appendix 1 to the report, subject to audit.

8. Appointment of Monitoring Officer

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the proposed appointment of the incoming Head of Democratic Services as the Council's Monitoring Officer in terms of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and to note their appointment as Proper Officer of the Council in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

At the invitation of the Provost, the current Head of Democratic Services took the opportunity to express his gratitude to Elected Members for their support during the 27 years in which he had worked at North Ayrshire Council and its predecessor authority

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, with effect from 19 July 2021:

- (a) to approve the appointment of Aileen Craig, incoming Head of Democratic Services as the Council's Monitoring Officer in terms of Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989; and

- (b) to note the appointment of Aileen Craig as Proper Officer for the authentication and execution of documents on behalf of the Council in terms of Section 193 and 194 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

At the invitation of the Provost, Aileen Craig expressed her delight at the appointment and the high regard in which she held the current Head of Democratic Services.

9. Remote/Hybrid Meetings: Next Phase

Submitted report by the Head of Democratic Services on information in relation to, and options for, the introduction of hybrid committee meetings.

The Head of Democratic Services gave a short verbal update on a recent statement by the First Minister on the potential timescale for the future relaxation of restrictions.

Members asked questions of clarification of the Chief Executive and Head of Democratic Services on the following:

- the welfare of staff currently working from home and measures to support them;
- the potential for piloting hybrid meetings of the Licensing Committee and Board; and
- whether Members could make arrangements for face-to-face meetings with constituents, notwithstanding that formal surgeries could not currently take place.

The Chief Executive undertook to look at the feasibility of including a hybrid meeting of the Licensing Committee or Board as part of the pilot of hybrid meetings.

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) to note the availability of a hybrid meeting solution for Council and committee meetings, subject to staff training/system testing over the summer recess period and relaxation of COVID social distancing requirements; and
- (b) that a further report be submitted to Council once physical distancing and home working requirements are lifted to agree (i) the timescale for the introduction of hybrid meetings, (ii) any necessary further amendment to Standing Orders to accommodate hybrid meetings and (iii) the future webcasting/life streaming of all Council/committee meetings which are open to the public

The meeting ended at 4.40 p.m.



PROVOST'S REPORT

For the period covering: 31 May – 29 August
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: 31 May – 29 August 2021

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

Royal British Legion Centenary Service, Saltcoats, 19 June

I was delighted to take part in a nationwide event to mark 100 years of the Royal British Legion. On 19 June, to mark the occasion, I attended a wreath laying ceremony and service arranged by the local branch of the British Legion in Saltcoats. It was also an opportunity to highlight the important role of the British Legion and all their volunteers in supporting our Armed Forces Community.

Armed Forces Day, Irvine, 27 June

On 28 June, I took part in the Armed Forces Day celebration in Irvine. Organised by the Irvine branch of the British Legion the event allowed us to demonstrate our support and appreciation for all those men and women serving in our Armed Forces.

Opening of Ayrshire Hospice Store, Largs, 24 July

I was delighted to officially open the new look Ayrshire Hospice Store in Largs on 25 July, after it had both an external and internal refit.

The store now features a cookery nook and home emporium, with a range of everything for the budding chef and home cook, as well as fashion, books and media.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved, particularly the volunteers who give up their free time and work tirelessly behind the scenes, making a huge difference to their community and to the lives of others.

Irvine Lasses Burns Club, Harbourside Heritage Walk Launch, Irvine, 29 July

On 29 July, I met with members of Irvine Lasses Burns Club to launch their forthcoming Heritage Walks around Irvine Harbourside. This is another example of the excellent work carried out by volunteers in our local area.



Virtual Marymass Festival, Irvine, 12 – 23 August

Marymass Festival took place on a virtual basis again this year. There was plenty of online material from years gone by, historical facts, interviews with members of the Carters' Society and live footage of the alternative opening ceremony, which I was only too pleased to take part in. I attended the annual Marymass Derby, where Irvine Meadow hosted Irvine Victoria, I also met up with Captain Danny Kerr when he arrived at Irvine Seagate, on horse and cart, on Marymass Saturday to mark the reputed visit of Mary Queen of Scots to Irvine in 1563. I was delighted to provide a video message to mark both the opening and closing ceremonies. Although this year's Festival was for the large part online, it is encouraging to see the traditions of the town being upheld and I am sure it was enjoyed by many people from near and far.

2021 Cadet Adult Recognition Awards on YouTube, 13 August

On 13 August, the Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association for the Lowlands hosted their annual Cadet Annual Recognition Awards. The Awards gave the Cadets the opportunity to publicly thank the adult volunteers for all they do to make their Cadet experience so special. These inspiring adults have a positive impact on these young people's lives.

Harbourside Heritage Walk, Irvine, 18 August

On 18 August, I went on one of the organised Harbourside Heritage Walks. The walks were arranged by Irvine Lasses' Burns Club and gave an insight into the history of the Harbourside and the people who lived and worked there.

Irvine Burns Club Zoom Event, 18 August

I took part in another successful Irvine Burns Club Zoom event on the evening of 18 August. The programme included presentations from, Professor Gerry Carruthers of Glasgow University and Irvine-born Henry Cairney, current President of the Robert Burns Association of North America and the President and President-Elect of Robert Burns World Federation.

Ed Miller, the Texan-based Scottish folk singer and folklorist, spoke about some of his experiences in promoting Scotland and Scottish music across the USA for the past four decades at Burns-related events and festivals.



Screening of Roberts Burns Documentary, “Fakers and Forgers: counterfeiting Robert Burns”, 26 August

Part of the grant award for the 'Editing Robert Burns for the 21st Century' (ERB21C) project, by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, included funding to produce a series of documentaries on different aspects of the work of the project, and I was delighted to attend the launch of the first of those documentaries on 26 August.

Entitled 'Fakers and Forgers: counterfeiting Robert Burns', the 55-minute production explored some of the fascinating stories around the ways in which Robert Burns has been faked or falsely attributed authorship, as well as some of the modern techniques being employed to authenticate manuscripts, which may have an unclear provenance.



Ian Clarkson

Councillor Ian Clarkson
Provost North Ayrshire Council



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

LEADER'S REPORT

For the period covering: 31 May – 29 August
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: 31 May – 29 August 2021

VISITS TO ARDROSSAN, 1 and 5 June

On 5 June I was invited by the Ardrossan Community Development Trust to attend the open day of the Ardrossan Community Fitness Centre. This followed on from a visit to Ardrossan South Beach earlier in the week to look at proposals for development of the area. Both are fantastic community initiatives which have been supported by grant funding from our Community Investment Fund.

The Ardrossan Community Development Trust is a membership organisation that has big ambitions for the town, and I am delighted that they have secured £250,000 of funding from the National Lottery to kickstart their vision for Ardrossan South Beach promenade. The £250,000 will allow the group to install additional play equipment at South Beach, which will be a great attraction for families looking to spend a day at our spectacular coast.

The second visit was to the new Ardrossan Community Sports Hub open day. The Ardrossan Community Sports Hub has brought the former Maximum Potential community gym assets and facilities, within the grounds of the Seafield School site, into community ownership to operate as a community gym. Back in January, my Cabinet awarded the group a £43,000 grant from our Community Investment Fund allowing them to create new jobs at the gym. It is a great facility and I am really pleased to hear that the open day was a huge success with many people becoming members of the gym on the day.

These are two great community initiatives in the one town but there are similar projects across the whole of North Ayrshire. Supporting these community-led projects is a key priority for me as Council Leader and features very heavily in our Community Wealth Building strategy. The Community Investment Fund has provided a source of funding that would not normally be provided by Councils but is a demonstration of the importance we place on empowering communities to deliver change. Such an approach is going to be a key part of our recovery from the pandemic.

VOLUNTEER'S WEEK AWARD CEREMONY, 7 June

It was a real privilege to take part in the Awards ceremony organised by The Ayrshire Community Trust (TACT) on 7 June and celebrate some of the outstanding work carried out by volunteers throughout North Ayrshire. It was really humbling to hear some of the amazing



stories and acts of kindness carried out by a special group of people. I was delighted to present the award to volunteers at North Ayrshire Women's Aid who have continued to operate and provide support during the pandemic. The organisation moved to the community hub building during the pandemic and implemented a covid contingency plan which has included a variety of changes for the volunteers. When in lockdown the volunteers were unable to be in the hub, instead they completed some training to facilitate peer support groups which are now available to women using the service. North Ayrshire Women's Aid have been a lifeline to many during the past 18 months and are worthy winners of this award.

COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD, 10 June

I Chaired a meeting of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board on 10 June. Attendees received presentations and updates on the following:

- Children's Services Strategic Partnership report
- Youth Participation and Citizenship Strategy
- Locality Priorities
- Fair for All Performance Report

Two workshop sessions were then held for partners to take part in. The first one entitled "Working North Ayrshire" was delivered by Skills Development Scotland and the second workshop, "Healthier North Ayrshire" was delivered by the North Ayrshire Drugs and Alcohol Partnership. Both workshops provided CPP partners with a greater understanding about these two areas of work. It also provided partners with an opportunity to identify areas where they can link in and support these areas of work going forward.

COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING COMMISSION, 11 June

Our Community Wealth Building Commission met again on 11 June and received updates from Commission partners, the CWB Commission Lead Officers Working Group (LOWG), the procurement pillar workstream and an Ayrshire Growth Deal/Community Wealth Building Fund update.

Commission members also received an interesting presentation on the possible implementation of a CWB Act and how this could be designed to support delivery of CWB work throughout Ayrshire.



The idea of a CWB Act has been proposed in recent reports by Commonwealth and The Democracy Collaborative, two think tanks aiming to promote and embed Community Wealth Building and a more democratic economy. Following Ayrshire's leading role, it is hoped that such an Act would help to facilitate the implementation of CWB work in areas such as Fife, Inverclyde, South Lanarkshire and West Lothian.

My thanks to Miriam Brett, Director of Research & Advocacy for Commonwealth and Sarah McKinley, Director for European Programs for The Democracy Collaborative, for sharing this information with us and of course, their continued support on our CWB journey.

SCOTLAND EXCEL SUB AND JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING, 18 June

I attended a meeting of the Scotland Excel Executive Committee on 18 June. Attendees received an update on the Financial Audit report for 2020/21. Contracts for approval were also discussed covering delivery of Education materials, fostering and social care contracts and one for the treatment and disposal of organic waste.

Two submissions for membership of Scotland Excel were also approved, one from Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority and the other from Sportscotland.

COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING EXPERT PANEL MEETING, 21 June

The Community Wealth Building Expert Panel met on 21 June to hear updates on our CWB progress and to provide valuable feedback on our draft CWB annual report.

I am proud of the work contained in the draft report which marks the first year of embarking on a bold new economic model to deliver Scotland's first Community Wealth Building strategy. The strategy was launched during the Covid-19 global pandemic, with unprecedented impacts on population health, the economy and society. The impacts on North Ayrshire have been severe and has thrown into sharp relief the need to focus on creating an economy that is more diverse, sustainable and resilient to future challenges, such as the Climate Emergency.

As we emerge from the pandemic, it is clear that we cannot return to business as usual, and we must build back an economy which is better, fairer and greener. Using our Community Wealth Building strategy as a framework, we will support our existing businesses and social enterprises to rebuild, diversify and become more resilient, green and inclusive. We will support our communities who have lost their jobs or are in insecure work and encourage community entrepreneurship. This report reflects on the first year of delivering the strategy – amidst the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic – and highlights key achievements, progress and examples of how our changes and support have impacted positively on our communities and businesses.



My thanks again to our CWB Expert Panel members for their valuable input and feedback on our CWB strategy and their continued support to North Ayrshire Council.

VISIT TO LOCKHART CAMPUS, 22 June

On 22 June I was delighted to get the opportunity along with our Chief Executive, Craig Hatton, to visit Lockhart Campus, North Ayrshire Council's new Additional Support Needs (ASN) school that will open to pupils in August. It is truly a stunning, state-of-the-art school that is going to transform the education of children and young people with additional support needs across North Ayrshire. Every detail has been thought through from the flexible classroom spaces, the sensory rooms, indoor soft play, swimming and hydrotherapy pools through to the amazing outdoor spaces.

I am proud of the investment North Ayrshire Council has made in Lockhart Campus. It is a special project that is going to ensure children and young people with additional support needs get the best education possible in the best of educational environments. The £20million plus school, alongside the £5million investment in the respite centres situated next door (the equally stunning Red Rose House and Roslin House), has been fully funded by the Council and is part of over £100million of investment to improve the school estate that my administration are making.

COSLA SPECIAL LEADERS MEETING, 24 June

I attended a Special COSLA Leaders meeting on 24 June to discuss strategic financial issues facing Local Government including council tax and pay issues.

COSLA LEADERS MEETING, 25 June

There was a further COSLA Leaders meeting held on 25 June to discuss a packed Agenda with discussion points such as:

- The Promise
- Employability – Phase 2 of No One Left Behind
- COSLA and IS Partnership Working
- Scottish Local Government Conduct Order 2021 – Consultation
- Digital Citizenship Guide for Councillors – Civility in Public Life
- Christie Commission – 10 years on

No One Left Behind (NOLB) is a key strand of funding North Ayrshire Council receives to deliver employability services specifically targeting those most disadvantaged in the labour market. From April 2022 additional funding will be incorporated into NOLB in the form of two



national programmes, Community Jobs Scotland and Employability fund. This transition of funding to NOLB will mean a significant increase in funding for employability services in North Ayrshire.

RACKIT PHOTO CALL, 15 July

On 15 July I was delighted to meet with some of the employers at Rackit, a local business success story. The company was established in 2006 and provides its customers, who range from small office-based businesses to multinational global giants, with solid and innovative storage and handling solutions. In recent years the company has grown significantly from a £1 million business in 2012, to £6.5 million in 2021.

With a company motto of 'think global, act local', they are a local business that share much of our ethos of Community Wealth Building with a commitment to providing living wage jobs for local people including apprenticeships in IT, warehousing, purchasing and supply chain. The move to the Gateway Building at i3 will see Rackit increase their business space tenfold increasing from their current 3,500 square feet premises to the 35,000 square feet that the Gateway Building offers. This expansion will allow the company to create a further 40 jobs by the end of next year.

Rackit's move is a great example of the investment the Council is making to build new commercial business space at i3. We know that there is demand for commercial units in North Ayrshire that will not be met if it is left to "the market" to build them because construction costs are often higher than the end "market value" of the units due to "market failure" in the North Ayrshire economy. If the units aren't built, then the local economy is held back even further as businesses like Rackit are either held back or forced to move elsewhere to grow. That's why it is vital that the Council is intervening where "the market" won't, investing in new commercial units to support local businesses and create jobs. The units are retained in Council ownership and then generate a rental income for the Council going forward.

I wish the company continued success for the future.

COSLA SPECIAL LEADERS MEETING, 30 July

COSLA Leaders met again on 30 July to continue discussions around pay negotiations for Local Government employees. Other agenda items included:

- Revised Engagement Protocol for COVID-19 Decision Making
- Support for Destitute People with No Recourse to Public Funds
- Play Park Renewal Update
- Community Planning Improvement Board



- Partnership Delivery Framework for ADPs

Highlights from the Community Planning Improvement Board (CPIB) paper outline the successes of Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) during the pandemic, drawn from research by The Improvement Service and includes details of the work of North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) and the community hubs.

I am proud to say that North Ayrshire Council is noted for its sector-leading work in Community Planning and the strength of its local CPP which was noted in the 2020 Best Value Audit Report.

FUNDING BOOST FOR 1ST ALLIANCE CREDIT UNION, 12 August

On 12 August I was delighted to visit the 1st Alliance Credit Union in Kilwinning to meet with Carol McHarg, CEO of 1st Alliance to announce the £150K that North Ayrshire Council will give to help meet the needs of the most vulnerable who have been financially disadvantaged because of the pandemic.

Supporting vulnerable families, citizens and communities in North Ayrshire, the Access to Finance Fund will be available via Kilwinning's 1st Alliance Credit Union. With many seeing a sharp decline in their income due to furlough or periods of unemployment throughout the pandemic, members who would have otherwise been able to apply for personal loans have not met the current lending criteria.

This funding is a great example of Community Wealth Building in action, a pledge that we have made as a Council to invest in and support businesses in the local economy, in particular to back co-operative ownership models such as credit unions. It is our commitment to continue to help alleviate the stress and worry low-income households have faced because of the pandemic and we would encourage anyone who is experiencing financial difficulties to seek safe and affordable credit options from trusted lenders.

VISIT TO EARLY YEARS AND SCHOOLS, 16 & 17 August

It was great to go along and visit some of our recently refurbished early years establishments on 16 and 17 August at St Bridget's in Kilbirnie, Beith and Springside and Annick in Irvine.

The £5.4m refurbishments and extensions include large, modern indoor and outdoor play areas with free-flowing access to the innovative outdoor spaces. The unrestricted flow from indoor to outdoor offers the children the freedom to safely access and use both areas where high quality learning experiences are available for all.



North Ayrshire Council's ELC capital programme has 42 projects, including 27 refurbishments, 14 extensions, and one new-build provision. The Council plans will create additional capacity in our existing school estate, upgrading facilities at Kilwinning Academy, Irvine Royal, Auchendarvie and providing the much-needed extension to Annick Primary School.

I am proud to lead a Council that is tackling inequality and I believe that a big part of that is through education. I am confident that the transformational nature of our investment in schools will have a long-term positive impact in closing the poverty-related attainment gap, but schools and education cannot be viewed in isolation from everything else. Children spend more time outside the classroom than they do inside it, so if we are to tackle the attainment gap, we must support families outside of school too. That's what we are doing with our council house building programme, our Community Wealth Building approach and initiatives such as our Cost of the School Day programme and the ever-growing Fairer Food Network. Considered altogether, the work we are doing as a Council is a catalyst for real change which can finally shift the dial on the inequality that has plagued our area for too long.

FUSION ARDEER ENGAGEMENT EVENT, 17 August

On 17 August I attended a briefing with fellow Elected members, community representatives and senior officers to hear more about a bid submitted by North Ayrshire Council for Ardeer to be considered by the UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) and the UK Government as a location for a prototype fusion power station known as STEP (Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production).

University of Glasgow School of Physics and Astronomy developed the nomination, based on the University's expertise and interest in the field, their understanding of the requirements of the site, and the identified skills base. They worked with Glasgow City Council, and landowners NPL as a consortium to develop the bid, with advice from Scottish Enterprise.

Attendees were informed about the overall project, the selection process, and at what stage the process is at currently. I am pleased to say that the briefing was well attended, generating much interest and several questions on the technology, the project impacts, and the process for site selection.

Site shortlisting is expected late August-early September 2021. A final three sites will be selected by end 2021 and will be scrutinised during 2022. UKAEA will make recommendations to the UK Minister in summer 2022 with a final site decision to be taken by the end of 2022.

VISIT TO KILWINNING RANGERS' HUB, 17 August



It was great to get along and visit the new hub at Kilwinning Rangers on 17 August and see some of the work that has taken place using the monies awarded from our Community Investment Fund (CIF), totalling just under £57k. The new additional space will provide much-needed room for the Club's players and update changing facilities. It is when I see projects like this, I can see the positive impact that our CIF funding is making to our communities throughout North Ayrshire.

SCOTLAND EXCEL SUB COMMITTEE MEETING, 20 August

I attended a Sub Committee meeting of Scotland Excel on 20 August. Attendees were updated on the following:

- Chief Executive's Update report
- Digital update (including analysis of software systems used across Councils with most now using STAMP – Scotland's Technical Asset Management Platform)
- Care Services
- Scotland Excel Academy
- Housing Update (with a further 4 new Housing Associations have becoming associated members of Scotland Excel)
- Updates on Local Authority projects, including Community wealth building projects by East Lothian Council and Stirling Council

I am pleased to hear that Scotland Excel are working in partnership with the Scottish Government to develop Community Wealth Building practices across local government.

DIGITAL PROCESSING MANUFACTURING CENTRE LAUNCH, 25 August

On 25 August I was delighted to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with partners University of Strathclyde (as the operator of the National Manufacturing Institute Scotland (NMIS)) and the Centre for Process Innovation (CPI). The partnership will help future proof key process manufacturing industries, such as pharmaceuticals, food and drink and chemical products.

It brings together two of the UK's seven High Value Manufacturing Catapult centres, NMIS and CPI, to further bolster the support for UK manufacturing and they have big ambitions for the future, working together on proposals to further support the sector in their journey towards digital transformation. These proposals include the potential development of a dedicated research centre in the Ayrshire area.



As part of our Community Wealth Building strategy, we are keen to expand our anchor institutions in the area, and this new partnership will be another one which will improve the area's access to academic institutions to stimulate research and innovation.

North Ayrshire has always had a higher-than-average proportion of manufacturing jobs so therefore it is crucial for us to address concerns over regional decline through initiatives such as this. It will also have the future potential for sustainable employment opportunities for our young people.

VISIT TO KILWINNING FOOTBALL ACADEMY, 26 August

On 26 August, I dropped into chat with volunteers/staff about another project that has benefitted from our Community Investment Funding, Kilwinning Football Academy. The club uses physical activity and football to engage and inspire people to build a better life for themselves and unite the communities in which they live. Dedicated staff deliver football coaching, educational programmes and personal development, providing people with opportunities to change their lives for the better.

The plan is that the money will be spent in updating the surface at Almswell park and creating a more welcoming environment. By redeveloping Almswall, and specifically the playing surface, it will allow the facility to align with specific entry criteria into the Scottish Woman's Premier League 1 & 2. The criteria also include covered terracing and videography stands for filming games etc. This is the first phase of the Almswall Park redevelopment and in due course the club will look to redevelop the pavilion and car park area. Exciting times ahead for the club and the people of Kilwinning.



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

Councillor Joe Cullinane
Leader North Ayrshire Council

LEADER'S REPORT



NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

8 September 2021

North Ayrshire Council

Title: **North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP)
Board: Minutes of Meeting held on 11 March 2021**

Purpose: To submit the Minutes of the meeting of the North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership Board held on 11 March 2021.

Recommendation: That the Council notes the Minutes contained in Appendix 1.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 It was previously agreed that the Minutes of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board be submitted to North Ayrshire Council for information. The key matters arising from the minutes have been highlighted for the attention of Council and are detailed in Section 2.1.

2. Background

- 2.1 Minutes of the meeting of the CPP Board held on 11 March 2021 are appended. Particular matters for the Council's attention include the following: -

Agenda Item 3

CPP partners received an update on the Local Police Plan. They noted the engagement process and value of conducting a health inequalities self-assessment workshop on the draft plan.

Agenda Item 4

An update on Community Justice Ayrshire was given. This included detail on the partnership strategic plan and ambitions to continue to strengthen work with partners.

Agenda Item 5

Partners considered work on the cost of the school day, including the importance of the contributions by young people. It was agreed that partners will consider specific actions following the launch conference.

Agenda Item 7

The Board discussed the Community Food System and its link to community wealth building. Partners discussed the range of local provision, support given to community groups and the mutual support they provide.

Agenda Item 8

Partners received a presentation on CPP Step Change. This included the progress of the CPP since 2009 and the positive impact on local communities. Updates were provided on the four tests of change previously agreed. The Board agreed on a range of areas for focus for the continued development of the partnership and its work.

Agenda Item 9

Board members considered multi-agency locality working and the proposed model for the hub approach, along with the organisational commitments required.

3. Proposals

3.1 That the Council notes the Minutes contained in Appendix 1.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

4.1 None

Human Resources

4.2 None

Legal

4.3 None

Equality/Socio-economic

4.4 None

Environmental and Sustainability

4.5 None

Key Priorities

4.6 The CPP activities detailed within this report support the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.

Community Wealth Building

4.7 None

5. Consultation

5.1 No consultation was required.

Caroline Amos
Executive Director (Interim), Communities and Education

For further information please contact **Morna Rae, Senior Manager (Policy, Performance and Community Planning)**, on mrae@north-ayrshire.gov.uk.

Background Papers

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Community Planning Partnership Board

Thursday 11 March 2021 at 11.00 am

Via Microsoft Teams



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

Present

North Ayrshire Council

Joe Cullinane (**Chair**)

John Bell, Elected Member

Marie Burns, Elected Member

Scott Davidson, Elected Member

Alex Gallagher, Elected Member

Tony Gurney, Elected Member

Ellen McMaster, Elected Member

Craig Hatton, Chief Executive

North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership

Robert Foster, Elected Member (Chair of IJB)

Caroline Cameron, Director NA HSCP

Ayrshire College

Michael Breen, Vice Principal

DWP

Tom Gilligan, Work Services Manager

KA Leisure

Ashley Pringle, KA Leisure Vice Chair

NHS Ayrshire and Arran

Lesley Bowie, Chair of NHS Board (**Vice Chair**)

Police Scotland

Superintendent Derek Frew

Scottish Enterprise

Vikki Kewney, Project Manager (Sub for Theresa Correia)

Scottish Fire and Rescue

Ian McMeekin, Area Manager

Scottish Government

Sam Anson, Location Director

Skill Development Scotland

Claire Tooze, Area Manager (Sub for Katie Hutton)

Scottish Partnership for Transport

Allan Comrie, Senior Transport Planner

Third Sector Interface

Barbara Hastings, Ayrshire Community Trust

Kaileigh Brown, Ayrshire Community Trust

In Attendance

Audrey Sutton (NAC), Rhona Arthur (NAC), Morna Rae (NAC), Jacqui Greenlees (NAC), Lauren McMath (NAC), Jennifer McGee (NAC).

Apologies

John Burns (NHS Ayrshire and Arran), Sheila Lynn (DWP), Barbara Hastings (TACT), Katie Hutton (SDS), S Anson (Scottish Government), F Hussain (Police Scotland), Karen Yeomans (NAC), Katie Hutton (SDS), T Correia (Scottish Enterprise)

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.

2. Minute of the Previous Meeting and Action Note

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3. Draft Local Police Plan

D Frew provided the Board with an update on the draft Local Police Plan for North Ayrshire. He highlighted that the current Local Police Plan was not due for renewal until 2022, however, to fit in with national corporate cycle a 2021-2023 plan was created.

D Frew highlighted that as part of the drafting of the plan, a Health Inequalities Self-Assessment session was facilitated by E Young and M Rae which allowed a wide range of partners to feed in comments. He advised the Board that this was the first CPP plan in North Ayrshire to go through this process.

He advised that at the session one of the matters picked up by those in attendance was the need to engage more with young people in North Ayrshire and this was an area being developed with CPP colleagues.

D Frew also highlighted that in terms of welfare concern, a crisis resolution team has been set up with NHS support for Mental Health. The team are looking at better ways for adult protection referrals.

D Frew offered to have one to one meetings with any partners who would like it.

A Sutton highlighted that the approach to this plan is very welcome and the process has made sure it is embedded in North Ayrshire. She also suggested that it would be useful to have more visibility of Police Scotland in the Childrens Services Plan to promote their role. D Frew confirmed that he was happy to meet with A Sutton or a member of the team to take this forward.

M Rae highlighted that the offer of carrying out a Health Inequalities Self-Assessment is available to other partners should they have plans/policies under development which may benefit from this.

The Chair thanked D Frew for his update and encouraged the Board to participate in the consultation which is available on the CPP Website.

Action:

Partners to contribute to consultation.

Partners to suggest plans that could be subject to a Health Inequalities Self Assessment.

A Sutton to arrange meeting with D Frew regarding the Children's Services Plan.

4. Community Justice Ayrshire

A Torrance provided the Board with an update on Community Justice Ayrshire (CJA). A Torrance advised Senior Officers that she was appointed Manager of CJA in November 2020.

Community Justice Ayrshire was established following the Community Justice Scotland Act 2026. This placed a duty on statutory partners to deliver their services in a more joined up way to reduce reoffending.

Each Local Authority area produces a Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan outlining how they will do this annually. Community Justice Ayrshire is a Pan-Ayrshire approach to Community Justice and reports to all three Ayrshire Community Planning Partnerships.

Community Justice are committed to working with the community to identify local priorities to take action to reduce reoffending throughout Ayrshire. While prison remains appropriate for people who commit serious offences, locking people up isn't always the way to stop reoffending. Rehabilitation is part of the Community Justice approach; they want to help people with convictions to gain employment and find stable housing to reduce the chance of reoffending.

A Torrance also provided Senior Officers with some key facts relating to Community Justice;

- The average annual cost to keep someone in prison is over £36k and the average cost of a community payback order is £2.5k. It has been proven that someone serving a custodial sentence is twice as likely to reoffend to someone who has given a community sentence.
- 49% of all Scottish prisoners lose their accommodation and over 30% of prisoners being released don't know where they are going to live.
- 27k children in Scotland are affected by parental imprisonment. 30% of those with a parent in prison develop mental and physical health problems.
- 60% of boys with a convicted parent go on to offend themselves.

The current CJA Outcomes Improvement Plan was due to expire in March 2021, however, this has been extended to December 2021 due to Covid. The new CJA Outcomes Improvement Plan will be published in January 2022 and will be a five-year plan.

A Torrance highlighted that now feels like the best time to re-invigorate the partnership to create stronger links with CPP Partners and improve understanding in participation in Community Justice.

Partners agreed to contribute to the consultation and research that Community Justice Ayrshire are undertaking.

The Chair thanked A Torrance for her presentation.

Action: CPP Partners to contribute to the consultation and research

5. Cost of the School Day

A Sutton and L McMath provided the Board with an update on the work on the cost of the school day (CoSD).

A Sutton advised the Board that the final meeting of the CoSD Working Group will be held on 17 March 2021. A Sutton highlighted that a number of CP partners have contributed to the work significantly. At this meeting, the policy commitment will be finalised, and the high-level action plan will be shared. There will also be a conference to launch the policy. The proposal will go to Cabinet on 23 March 2021 for approval.

A Sutton also highlighted that at a recent Budget meeting, the Council made a contribution to the CoSD work with a recurring £500k annual funding to support, digital and home learning, food and eating in school and beyond, school uniform, outdoor clothing, sports kits etc in schools.

A Sutton advised that she would bring back a further update to the CPP Board in June regarding the individual actions both for schools and CP Partners. CP Partners will also be invited to the launch conference to help identify actions for the forthcoming year.

L McMath advised that the CoSD Working Group has been a collaborative process and noted that the input in particular from our young people and our school representatives has been extremely valuable in shaping the overall policy.

Cllr Foster highlighted that having people with lived experiences feeding into this work has been brilliant. Their ideas and drivers have helped build this policy.

Cllr Burns highlighted that it has been a joy to be part of the Working Group and that everyone has a part to play in this. Cllr Burns commended everyone involved in this work.

A Sutton also highlighted that Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) lead this work nationally and have been part of the Working Group. The feedback from CPAG has been that they view this work as national best practice and would like to promote this nationally, which is very exciting.

The Chair thanked A Sutton and L McMath for their update.

Action: A Sutton to provide further update at June CPP Board.

6. Children Services Planning

A Sutton and L McMath provided the Board with an update on the work of the Children's Services Strategic Partnership (CSSP).

L McMath highlighted that the CSSP are responsible for delivering Thriving North Ayrshire action of the LOIP. The Group meet quarterly and has representatives from:

- North Ayrshire Council
- North Ayrshire HSCP
- Police Scotland
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- KA Leisure
- Scottish Children's Reporter
- Children Panel.
- Third Sector Interface.

L McMath advised that to align with the new Children's Services Plan 2020-23 the format of the CSSP meetings have been revised. Each meeting will now focus on a priority of the Children's services Plan for in depth discussion and challenge. Cllrs Bell and Foster attend two meetings per year in their portfolio holder capacities.

A Sutton advised that Children's Services Executive Group (CSEG) has been formed which brings together Heads of Service from the Communities & Education and the North Ayrshire HSCP. The Group is co-chaired by the Executive Director for Communities & Education and the Director of the North Ayrshire HSCP to ensure links are being made regularly. The Group have agreed that five workstreams have been set up, each chaired by a Senior Manager from Education, Communities or the Health and Social Care Partnership. The workstream groups will

take forward specific pieces of work and report progress to the Children's Services Executive Group.

L McMath reported that the CSEG and the CSSP have agreed that due to the Covid-19 pandemic it will no longer be appropriate to carry out the ChildrenCount pupil survey that was due to be undertaken by the Dartington Service Design Lab in April 2020. The Dartington Service Design Lab have agreed to scope a different proposal to best use their expertise to inform the CSSP's response to The Promise.

Partners noted this approach to delivering on the Thriving North Ayrshire priority. The Chair thanked A Sutton and L McMath for their update.

7. Food System

A Morrell provided the Board with a presentation on the Community Food System. A Morrell highlighted that the update would cover:

- Food system in context of community wealth building
- Information on models
- Each locality's current food system

A Morrell advised that the vision is that demand for emergency food provision is reduced as North Ayrshire residents can afford and access good food. The Community Support Hubs act as brokers who can signpost to local food provision. Using a community wealth building approach, local businesses and third sector organisations provide low cost or free food to local people who need it.

A Morrell highlighted that:

- 10 local food anchor organisations are meeting on a fortnightly basis;
- Operating as stakeholder reference group;
- There is a huge focus on co production of materials and support for each other, this is evident in how the organisations are coming together outwith the meetings;
- The plan is to reduce officer input as the groups progress;
- Sub-Group has been created for digital presence to help promote the organisations online.

A Morrell also that a toolkit has been produced to support community food providers and covers:

- Access to training
- Stock supply
- Covid guidance
- Volunteer recruitment and training
- Environmental Health
- Insurance
- Communications strategy uniformed approach which can be personalised to Localities

A plan on a page has also been created to help support newer groups who want to set up larders/shops etc.

A Morrell highlighted that to date the following provision have been set up:

- Quaint Larder at Whitlees Community Centre, Ardrossan
- Dalry Sports Club Community Fridge
- Wee Shoap, Woodywynd, Kilwinning
- Cranberry Moss Larder, Kilwinning

A Morrell noted that there are a number other providers in the pipeline across the localities.

Cllr Gallagher commented that this work is fantastic, and the organisations seem to be focussing on the right things and getting things done. Cllr Gallagher asked how this work fits in in the North Coast. A Morrell highlighted that the team have been working closely with the organisations who came forward during the pandemic to support the community and conversations are taking place with some of them.

L Bowie asked A Morrell how the larders/shops are marketed. A Morrell advised that it was key to get branding right, so it was something of interest to people and not seen as a lesser option. In terms of promotion, the teams are keeping HSCP colleagues up to date for targeted work, posting details on the locality virtual community centres and the Council's Communications Team use their social media platforms to promote new premises when they open.

The Chair thanked A Morrell for her presentation.

8. Step Change

M Rae and I McMeekin provided the Board with a presentation on the work in relation to CPP Step Change.

M Rae advised that the purpose of the update is:

- To carry out a health check of the CPP at a strategic level,
- Provide an update on CPP Step Change previously committed to,
- Confirm what recovery and renewal means for the CPP, and
- Agree what's next for 2021.

In terms of carrying out the health check, M Rae shared a timeline from July 2009 where the first Single Outcome Agreement was signed. The timeline also displayed the strategy and governance work that the CPP has undertaken to date.

M Rae also shared some North Ayrshire Peoples Panel statistics to show the impact over the last 10 years. From surveys taken in 2009 and 2019 there was an increase in:

- Residents feeling fairly safe or very safe when outdoors in their neighbourhood after dark;
- Rating neighbourhood as a very or fairly good place to live;
- Spending time as a volunteer or attend local organisations;
- People from different backgrounds get on well in their local area ;
- Mental health and wellbeing scores.

In terms of CPP Step Change the four tests of changes agreed in December 2019 were:

- Early adopter site for whole systems approach to diet and healthy weight,
- Community book,
- Unintentional harm, and
- Health inequalities self-assessment and health in all policies.

It was highlighted that due to the pandemic, the responses to the tests of change have had to adapt but that significant progress had been made against each test.

M Rae advised she was invited to feed into a report for the national Community Planning Improvement Board. Some of the suggested key themes in terms of learning and direction of travel are:

- Empowering communities,
- Re-focusing priorities - inequalities, wellbeing, economic and social renewal,
- Influencing evolving national policy, and
- Delivery models and structures.

The Board agreed that these are key areas of focus for North Ayrshire CPP.

I McMeekin highlighted that the pandemic has identified a number of lessons about how we work and the culture in which we work. He also highlighted the importance of having staff aligned to key themes of wellbeing, empowerment, tackling inequalities, localism and whole systems working. He suggested that the areas of focus for the CPP are:

- Multi Agency Locality Working
- New Local Outcomes Improvement Plan from 2022
- Locality Priorities Refresh
- Updated OD/Learning and Development Plan
- Health Inequalities Self Assessments
- Communication and Governance Improvements
- Community Wealth Building
- CPP approach to climate change

The Board agreed with this approach.

The Chair thanked M Rae and I McMeekin for their update.

9. Multi-Agency Locality Working

A Sutton provided the Board with a presentation on multi-agency locality working.

A Sutton highlighted the importance on how as we deliver together as a CPP and how we operationalise some of the discussions that have been taking place.

A Sutton advised the Board that in terms of collective impact it is important to have a shared agenda, coordinate action, have effective communication and measurement, along with a broker who can facilitate relationships by having a backbone organisation at its centre.

As part of the Council's Recovery and Renewal Plan, service delivery to citizens and property footprint is one of the emerging themes. This focuses on the citizen to customer whole systems approach work and the locality hub model and how these are related.

A Sutton provided a brief overview of the reality of how we as a CPP have operationalised multi-agency working during the pandemic and highlighted the range of partners involved.

A Sutton provided the Board with some examples on how the locality hubs have supported the community during the pandemic, such as:

- 51,00 hot meals provided to the community
- 12,500 prescription deliveries
- 5,800 food parcels
- 8,000 health advice interactions

A Sutton shared information on the proposed model for the multi-agency hub, including:

- Access to services and support – Council and partners.
- Face to face contact and via the Contact Centre
- Community hubs will be coordinated by Connected Communities staff and/or community organisations
- Broker role for the Council
- Co-location, touchdown spaces activity & meeting space for partners & groups
- Local services retained in communities via hub network and with partner organisations
- Connected Communities services, including library and digital, in all communities, with partners

In terms of taking forward the Customer to Citizen work the key themes are:

- Single point of contact. Ensuring there is a streamlined customer journey;
- Collaborate responsive Service
- Permission driven decisions - increased customer / staff satisfaction
- Local knowledge and partners = stronger relationships to support citizens
- Information sharing – helps with getting informed decisions and better outcomes
- Less red tape, means improved response time for citizens
- Seeing the whole picture and empowerment will improve customer service

A Sutton highlighted that the next steps are to develop organisational commitments to locality and multi-agency approach, CPP leadership development for multi-agency locality working, support staff empowerment and training and measurement of impact.

A Sutton advised the Board that a further update will be brought to a future Board meeting.

The Chair thanked Audrey for her presentation.

Action: A Sutton to bring an update to future Board meeting.

10. Locality Hubs, Centres and Libraries consultation

R Arthur provided the Board with a presentation on the Locality Hub, Centres and Libraries Consultation.

R Arthur highlighted that this key aim of this consultation is the opportunity to redevelop and deliver enhanced, sustainable and realistic services delivered through halls, centres and libraries.

R Arthur also highlighted that this work has been taking place since 2018. In terms of community/public engagement, the team have held face to face public sessions during 2019, engagement online via Consul, direct with stakeholders, written communication and held conversation cafes. From the discussions held with our communities, it was noted that having community facilities in the local area that were accessible and affordable was important to the community and highly valued.

Following on from the discussions held in 2019, the following work was carried out:

- Options developed for each building
- Ensuring services are accessible but more affordable and sustainable
- Continue to work with The Consultation Institute
- Continue to progress Community Asset Transfer requests
- Stakeholders Reference Group
- Consultation mandate

- Consultation with a mixed methodology

R Arthur advised that the consultation launched on Consul on 5 March 2021 and will run for 9 weeks. There is also an option to discuss and contribute by phone. arrangements were made for information to be distributed with annual council tax letters, as well as promotion through social media.

Once the consultation has closed, the team will collate and analyse feedback and a report will then be prepared report for the 9 June 2021 Council Meeting.

The Chair thanked R Arthur for her presentation and encouraged the Board to have a look at the consultation on Consul.

11. Locality Partnership Priority Refresh

M Rae provided the Board with an update on the Locality Partnership Priority Refresh.

M Rae advised that the March Locality Partnership meetings were originally targeted for these discussions, however this has been extended to June to get more reach in to communities.

The priority refresh discussions have been uploaded on to Consul and Locality Partnership and CPP Partners have been encouraged to share this information.

M Rae highlighted that she will be contacting schools and asking them to share the priority refresh information with school communities and also to the all Parent Councils. Staff from the Connected Communities Team have also been contacting community groups and organisation over the telephone.

The Chair thanked M Rae for her update.

12. LOIP and Q3 Performance Update

J Greenlees provided the Board with an update on the LOIP Q3 Performance.

J Greenlees highlighted that that the delivery of the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) is supported by the Children's Services Plan, the Safer North Ayrshire Strategy, and the HSCP Strategic Plan amongst other key thematic plans.

An overview of the report was provided and J Greenlees asked any members of the Senior Officer Group to contact her directly should they require anything further.

J Greenlees asked the Board to forward any feedback regarding the layout of the report at Appendix 1.

13. Any Other Business

No other business was discussed.

14. Date of next Meeting

The next meeting of the North Ayrshire CPP Board will be held on **Thursday 10 June 2021 at 11.00 am via Microsoft Teams.**

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

8 September 2021

North Ayrshire Council

Title: **Report of the Returning Officer**

Purpose: To advise on the outcome of the North Ayrshire Council Ward 6 Dalry and West Kilbride By-Election and on the Declaration of Acceptance of Office by the new Elected Member for that Ward.

Recommendation: That the Council notes the result of the Ward 6 Dalry and West Kilbride By-Election and that the new Elected Member has signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

1. Executive Summary

1.1 This report provides details of the result of the North Ayrshire Council Ward 6 Dalry and West Kilbride By-Election held on Thursday 12 August 2021 and on the signing of the Declaration of Acceptance of Office by the new Elected Member.

2. Background

2.1 The North Ayrshire Council By-Election for Ward 6 Dalry and West Kilbride was held on Thursday 12 August 2021 with the electronic verification and counting of votes (eCount) taking place on Friday 13 August 2021 in Dalry Primary School.

3. Proposals

3.1 As Returning Officer, I wish to report that Ronnie Stalker, Scottish Conservative and Unionist was elected to serve the Dalry and West Kilbride Ward of North Ayrshire Council from Friday 13 August 2021, with the full complement of Elected Members for the Dalry and West Kilbride Ward detailed below:-

Ward 6 Dalry and West Kilbride	Elected Members
No of Members elected to the Ward is 3	Councillor Robert Barr (existing Member) Independent
	Councillor Todd Ferguson (existing Member) Scottish Conservative and Unionist
	Ronnie Stalker (new Member) Scottish Conservative and Unionist

3.2 I wish to further report that the Acceptance of Declaration of Office was duly signed by Ronnie Stalker on 13 August 2021 in the presence of the Council's Monitoring Officer, Aileen Craig, and in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1973.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

4.1 None arising from this report.

Human Resources

4.2 None arising from this report.

Legal

4.3 None arising from this report.

Equality/Socio-economic

4.4 None arising from this report.

Environmental and Sustainability

4.5 None arising from this report.

Key Priorities

4.6 None arising from this report.

Community Wealth Building

4.7 None arising from this report.

5. Consultation

5.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer was consulted in the preparation of this report.

Craig Hatton
Returning Officer

For further information please contact Barry Tudhope, Senior Manager (Corporate Policy, Performance and Elections), on Tel: 01294 324113.

Background Papers

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NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

8 September 2021

North Ayrshire Council

Title: Committee Timetable January-May 2022

Purpose: To present a proposed committee timetable for the period from January 2022 until the conclusion of the current Administration.

Recommendation: That the Council agrees (a) to approve the committee timetable for the period January-May 2022 set out in Appendix 1; (b) to note that the dates for meetings referred to at Section 2 are subject to confirmation separately, in addition to those for any ad hoc committees and Special Meetings which may be required over the course of the year.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Council generally gives consideration in Autumn each year to its calendar of committee meetings for the following year. The current committee timetable was approved by the Council in September 2020.
- 1.2 The appendix to this report sets out a proposed 2022 timetable for the remainder of the current Administration.

2. Background

- 2.1 The proposed committee timetable for 2022 is set out at Appendix 1. The draft has been prepared around the principle of a six-week cycle of meetings, with recess periods for Easter and the Local Government Elections.
- 2.2 Dates for the Integration Joint Board (IJB) and IJB Performance and Audit Committee are indicative as they require to be formally agreed by the IJB.
- 2.3 The undernoted committees/boards set their own meeting dates and these will be the subject of separate notification in due course:
 - Locality Planning Partnerships;
 - Ayrshire Regional Economic Joint Committee (and sub-committee/Partnership Board);
 - Ayrshire Shared Services Joint Committee; and
 - Community Planning Partnership Board.

- 2.4 In addition, meetings of the Education Appeals Committee, Council (Planning), Local Development Plan Committee and Staffing and Recruitment Committee will take place on an ad hoc basis, as required. From time to time, Special Meetings of the Council or its committees may also require to be called.
- 2.5 The provisional date of the Special Meeting of Council for the Budget is included in the draft timetable. Arrangements for this meeting will be confirmed when the Scottish Parliament budget-setting timetable is known.

3. Proposals

3.1 The Council is invited to:

- (a) approve the committee timetable for the period January-May 2022 set out in Appendix 1; and
- (b) note that the dates for the committees/boards referred to at Section 2 are subject to confirmation separately, in addition to those for any ad hoc committees and Special Meetings which may be required over the course of the year.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

4.1 None arising from this report.

Human Resources

4.2 None arising from this report.

Legal

4.3 None arising from this report.

Equality/Socio-economic

4.4 None arising from this report.

Environmental and Sustainability

4.5 None arising from this report.

Key Priorities

4.6 None arising from this report.

Community Wealth Building

4.7 None arising from this report.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Political Group Leaders, Independent Members and Executive Directors have been consulted on the proposed timetable of meetings.

Craig Hatton
Chief Executive

For further information please contact Melanie Anderson, Senior Manager (Committee and Member Services), on Tel: 01294 324131.

Background Papers

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Draft Committee Timetable January – May 2022

Meeting Cycle 1

Week Beginning	Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 January		Public Holiday			10.00 a.m. Policy Advisory Panel	
10 January	1		11.00 a.m. Audit & Scrutiny Pre-Agenda	10.00 a.m. Licensing	10.00 a.m. IJB Budget Briefing (private)	
17 January	2		2.30 p.m. Cabinet Pre-Agenda	10.00 a.m. Audit & Scrutiny	10.00 a.m. Appeals (if required)	
24 January	3		2.30 p.m. Cabinet	2.00 p.m. Planning 2.30 p.m. LRB		
31 January	4	NHS Board (for info)	10.00 a.m. IJB Pre-Agenda		10.00 a.m. Policy Advisory Panel	
7 February	5		2.00 p.m. Police & Fire & Rescue	10.00 a.m. Licensing	10.00 a.m. Integration Joint Board TBC	
14 February	6	1.00 p.m. Council Pre-Meeting	2.30 p.m. Cabinet Pre-Agenda	2.00 p.m. Council	10.00 a.m. Appeals (if required)	

Meeting Cycle 2

Week Beginning	Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
21 February	1		2.30 p.m. Cabinet (Education)	2.00 p.m. Planning 2.30 p.m. LRB		
28 February	2	1.00 p.m. Council Pre-Meeting	11.00 a.m. Audit & Scrutiny Pre-Agenda	2.00 p.m. Special Council (Budget) TBC		10.00 a.m. IJB PAC TBC
7 March	3		10.00 a.m. Audit and Scrutiny 2.00 p.m. IJB Pre-Agenda	10.00 a.m. Licensing		
14 March	4		2.30 p.m. Cabinet Pre-Agenda		10.00 a.m. Integration Joint Board TBC	
21 March	5		2.30 p.m. Cabinet *	2.00 p.m. Planning 2.30 p.m. LRB	10.00 a.m. Appeals (if required)	
28 March	6	1.00 p.m. Council Pre-Meeting NHS Board (for info)		2.00 p.m. Final Council Meeting		
4 April		Public Holiday	Easter Recess	Easter Recess	Easter Recess	Easter Recess
11 April		Easter Recess	Easter Recess	Easter Recess	Easter Recess	Public Holiday
18 April		Public Holiday	Election Recess	Election Recess	Election Recess	Election Recess
25 April		Election Recess	Election Recess	Election Recess	Election Recess	Election Recess
2 May		Public Holiday	Election Recess	Election Recess	Local Government Elections	

*Please note that the deadline for any call in from the final Cabinet meeting would be 29 March and the call in would, therefore, be considered as an urgent item at the final Council meeting rather than being submitted to a meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee.

To be added:

- Ayrshire Shared Services Joint Committee (to be agreed in consultation with the other two Ayrshires)
- Ayrshire Regional Economic Joint Committee (to be agreed in consultation with the other two Ayrshires)
- Ayrshire Economic Partnership Board (to be agreed in consultation with the other two Ayrshires)
- Education Appeals (ad hoc)
- Staffing and Recruitment (ad hoc)
- Local Development Plan Committee (ad hoc)
- Council (Planning) (ad hoc)

8 September 2021**North Ayrshire Council**

Title: **Hybrid Committee Meetings**

Purpose:

To update the Council on progress in terms of the introduction of hybrid meetings.

Recommendation: That the Council:

- (a) agrees that a hybrid meetings pilot take place prior to the next ordinary meeting of the Council in October 2021, involving a meeting(s) of the Licensing Committee and Integration Joint Board, subject to (i) consultation with the Health and Social Care Partnership with regard to the IJB arrangements, (ii) any applicants/licence-holders attending the Licensing Committee do so on a remote basis only; (iii) any hybrid meetings during the pilot proceeding as remote meetings (with physical participation) with no more than 50% of committee Members attending in person and on the basis that any failure of the hybrid equipment would result in the meeting reverting to a remote platform; (iii) the pilot being suspended in the event of a reintroduction of social distancing requirements; and (iv) the extent of the pilot being dependent on the availability of sufficient staff resources;
 - (b) notes that no further amendment to Standing Orders is required at this time in relation to hybrid meeting arrangements, but that officers use learning and experience from the pilot to inform a Hybrid Meetings protocol for use by Members, Officers and other meeting participants;
 - (c) agrees that a further report be submitted to the Council meeting in October 2021 on (i) the outcome of the pilot; (ii) options for the expansion of hybrid/physical meetings and (iii) future public gallery provision; and
 - (d) notes that any pilot hybrid meetings held in September 2021 would not require to include a physical public gallery but that, from October 2021, some public gallery provision would be needed for any meetings with a physical attendance component.
-

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 As a result of COVID-19 and associated restrictions, meetings of the Council and its committees have been taking place on a wholly remote basis via MS Teams since June 2020. Live-streaming of meetings ordinarily open to the public was introduced in October 2020.
- 1.2 Hybrid meeting equipment has been installed in the Council Chambers to allow a combination of physical and remote attendance, with the option of live-streaming to the Council's webcasting microsite. Testing of this equipment is currently underway.
- 1.3 It is proposed that a trial of the hybrid system take place prior to the October 2021 meeting of the Council, subject to the conditions set out in the Background and Proposals sections of this report.

2. Background

- 2.1 At a Special Meeting held on 23 June 2021, the Council received an update report on the next steps in terms of remote and hybrid committee meetings. The report provided background information on the introduction of remote committee meetings in June 2020 in light of the COVID-19 and provided information on the potential for hybrid meetings in future, subject to the lifting of restrictions around social distancing.
- 2.2 The Council agreed:
 - (a) to note the availability of a hybrid meeting solution for Council and committee meetings, subject to staff training/system testing over the summer recess period and the relaxation of COVID social distancing requirements; and
 - (b) that a further report be submitted to Council once physical distancing and home working requirements are lifted to agree (i) the timescale for the introduction of hybrid meetings, (ii) any necessary further amendment to Standing Orders to accommodate hybrid meetings and (iii) the future of webcasting/live streaming of all Council/committee meetings which are open to the public.

Current Position on Restrictions

- 2.3 Although the number of COVID-19 cases has been rising of late in Scotland, the vaccination programme is well advanced and, at present, Scotland has moved out of the COVID-19 levels system and is now beyond Level 0. This means that home working or a mixture of home and office working is now permitted and social distancing no longer required. It is understood that face covering may still be required but further advice is being sought.
- 2.4 Further guidance is being sought on requirements for collection of contact tracing information in relation to Elected Members, Officers and (subject to there being a decision to re-introduce a public gallery) any members of the public attending a meeting in the Council Chambers.

Hybrid Equipment Testing

- 25 Testing of the new hybrid equipment in the Council Chambers was initially delayed over the summer period due to some technical issues around the interface between the new equipment and the older existing sound and display systems within the Chambers. However, a number of successful tests have now been carried out and officers are now 'stress-testing' the system with larger numbers of remote and physical participants.
- 26 Officer attention is also turning to some practical issues around the operation of hybrid meetings. In particular, consideration is being given to how best to support a meeting Chair in terms of facilitating effective participation by remote and physical Elected Members and Officers. Arrangements for sharing presentation material are also being explored.
- 27 It is apparent from the testing undertaken so far that hybrid meetings require significant staff resource to manage the remote and physical elements of the process as well as the live-streaming of the meeting.

Hybrid Pilot

- 28 It is proposed that an initial pilot of the hybrid system be undertaken prior to the next meeting of the full Council in October 2021. The 15 September and 20 October 2021 meetings of the Licensing Committee and the 21 October 2021 meeting of the Integration Joint Board have been suggested for inclusion in the pilot.
- 29 In future, hybrid meetings may take the form of a *Physical Meeting (with remote participation)*, meaning that most participants will be in the Chambers with the option for some to join the meeting remotely. In such circumstances, any failure of the hybrid equipment would result in the physical meeting taking precedence, to the detriment of any remote attendees. Any Member wishing to attend on a remote basis would do so on the understanding of this position.
- 210 During the pilot period, however, it is proposed that hybrid meeting proceed on the basis of *Remote Meetings (with physical participation)*. This means that, in the event of any failure of the system or any other factor which might prevent the hybrid meeting from proceeding, the meeting would revert to the remote platform. Similarly, in the event of any staff required to operate the hybrid system having to self-isolate, the meeting would re-convene via the remote platform.
- 211 It is proposed that, for the purposes of the pilot any applicants/licence-holders invited to Licensing Committee continue to attend on a remote basis only and that physical attendance by members of both committees is limited to 50%.

Public Gallery Arrangements

- 2.12 The Council's legal power to exclude the public from meetings due to a "real or substantial risk to public health" specifically relating to infection or contamination by Coronavirus ends on 30 September 2021 with the expiry of the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2021. The Act cannot be extended beyond that date and, although it is understood that a replacement Act is being prepared, it is assumed that some public gallery provision would be required from October 2021 where there is a physical component to a Council/committee meeting.
- 2.13 In light of the above, it is proposed that any hybrid meetings which take place in September do not include a physical public gallery in the Chambers and that the Council continues to meet its public access obligations via live-streaming only. For pilot meetings from October 2021, however, a small public gallery would require to be carefully managed, together with any contact tracing arrangements which may be required.

Standing Orders Considerations

- 2.14 The Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003 permits the holding of and participation in remote meetings and the Council's Standing Orders have already been amended to mirror the terms of the Act. Members who attend a remote meeting of Council/its committees are regarded as 'present'.
- 2.15 In terms of the 2003 Act, it is for the Chair to determine whether a meeting takes place on a remote or hybrid basis and Standing Order 5.7 already includes a provision for the Provost/Chair to "determine any questions of procedure for which no express provision has been made in these Standing Orders". Therefore, the Chair of a meeting could determine the basis upon which a hybrid meeting takes place, either as a *Remote Meeting (with physical participation)* or a *Physical Meeting (with remote participation)*.
- 2.16 It is proposed that a protocol be developed for use in hybrid meetings, setting out the position in the event of a hybrid system or other failure. Development of the protocol would be informed by learning and experience from the pilot.

3. Proposals

3.1 The Council is invited to:

- (a) agree that a hybrid meetings pilot take place prior to the next ordinary meeting of the Council in October 2021, involving a meeting(s) of the Licensing Committee and Integration Joint Board, subject to:
- (i) consultation with the Health and Social Care Partnership with regard to the IJB arrangements,
 - (ii) any applicants/licence-holders attending the Licensing Committee do so on a remote basis only

- (iii) any hybrid meetings during the pilot proceeding as remote meetings (with physical participation) with no more than 50% of committee Members attending in person and on the basis that any failure of the hybrid equipment would result in the meeting reverting to a remote platform;
 - (iv) the pilot being suspended in the event of a reintroduction of social distancing requirements; and
 - (v) the extent of the pilot being dependent on the availability of sufficient staff resources
- (b) note that no further amendment to Standing Orders is required at this time in relation to hybrid meeting arrangements, but that officers use learning from the pilot to inform a Hybrid Meetings protocol for use by Members, Officers and other meeting participants;
- (c) agree that a further report be submitted to the Council meeting in October 2021 on:
- (i) the outcome of the pilot;
 - (ii) options for the expansion of hybrid/physical meetings and
 - (iii) future public gallery provisions; and
- (d) note that any pilot hybrid meetings held in September 2021 would not require to include a physical public gallery but that, from October 2021, some public gallery provision would be needed for any meetings with a physical attendance component.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

- 4.1 Prior to COVID-19, the Council webcast only meetings of the Council, Integration Joint Board, but it is assumed that even following the relaxation of restrictions and the reintroduction of a physical public gallery, live-streaming of all meetings which are not subject to the exclusion of the press and public will be expected as a matter of course. Additional webcasting hours have been purchased to accommodate this in the interim and this can be built into the retendering exercise for webcasting with effect from June 2022.
- 4.2 Remote meetings have significantly reduced expenditure on Elected Member travel. The resumption of physical attendance will increase such costs.

Human Resources

- 4.3 Remote/hybrid meetings are more resource-intensive than physical meetings, particularly where physical meetings are not webcast. The Committee Services team comprises only four Committee Services Officers. Each hybrid meeting requires the support of three CSOs.

Legal

Remote/Hybrid Meetings

- 4.4 The Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003 permits the holding of and participation in remote meetings. The Council's Standing Orders have been varied using the Chief Executive's urgency powers to mirror the terms of the Act and facilitate the holding of remote and/or hybrid meetings. [The Standing Orders relating to the Integration Joint Board already include a general provision (section 4.4) which encompasses remote or hybrid meetings].
- 4.5 In terms of Section 43(2) of the 2003 Act, the decision on whether a meeting is remote or hybrid is for the Provost or relevant committee Chair. The report to Council may seek the express approval of Chairs to permit hybrid meetings. Alternatively, unanimous approval of the Council report (with all committee chairs present) may be treated as a direction from them.

Public Gallery Provision (Remote Meetings)

- 4.6 Part 4 of the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 contains temporary modifications to Section 50A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 by adding an additional ground for the exclusion of the public from meetings of Local Authorities where there would be a "real or substantial risk" to public health due to infection or contamination with coronavirus. There is no distinction between virtual and physical Local Authority meetings within the temporary grounds (although it is difficult, of course, to make the case that there would be a 'real or substantial risk' associated with the public attending a remote meeting).
- 4.7 The temporary power to exclude the public from Local Authority meetings on coronavirus grounds is currently enforceable under Part 1 of the 2020 Act and the Act is due to expire on 30 September. It is understood that the Scottish Government are currently preparing further primary legislation although the terms of this are currently unknown. It is the view of the Council's Legal service that, by streaming its Teams meetings to the Council's website, the Council is effectively admitting the public to its remote meetings.
- 4.8 Whilst live streaming of remote meetings is likely to constitute public access to a meeting of the Council or its committees held on a wholly remote basis, it is logical to assume that the resumption of physical meetings or the introduction of hybrid meetings after 30 September should include some public gallery provision even if live streaming continues.

Equality/Socio-economic

- 4.9 Whilst there is no public gallery provision for meetings, some members of the public without access to IT equipment are disadvantaged by not being able to observe the proceedings, albeit that hard-copy Agendas and Minutes continue to be available on request. The reintroduction of a physical public gallery would address this.
- 4.10 At the same time, there may be some equality advantages associated with live-streaming meetings of the Council and committees in terms of offering easier/more extensive access to meetings than would be afforded by a small public gallery.

Environmental and Sustainability

4.11 Reintroducing a physical attendance element to meetings of the Council and its committees would have a small negative impact associated with travel to and from meetings.

Key Priorities

4.12 None arising from the recommendations set out in this report.

Community Wealth Building

4.13 None arising from the recommendations set out in this report.

5 Consultation

5.1 Some limited informal consultation has taken place with other Councils via the SOLAR Governance Working Group on the Knowledge Hub. It would appear that most Councils are not at an advanced stage.

Aileen Craig
Head of Democratic
Services

For further information please contact Melanie Anderson, Senior Manager (Committee and Member Services), on melanieanderson@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Background Papers

N/A

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
8th September 2021

North Ayrshire Council

Title: **Ardrossan Strategic Regeneration Programme and enabling Infrastructure Investment**

Purpose: To update Council on the progress of a nationally significant development programme in Ardrossan and the infrastructure investment required to enable the regeneration of a major strategic site.

Recommendation: Council notes progress to date of the Ardrossan North Shore outline business case and agrees to further budget provision of up to £14.3M of investment in enabling infrastructure to support the development of a major strategic site.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Ardrossan Strategic Regeneration Programme is an ambitious initiative which is anticipated will deliver investment of c.£170m over the next 10 years and will lead to a major transformation of the local area and beyond. This nationally significant regeneration programme will establish Ardrossan as a major centre for lifelong learning and academic achievement, a tourism destination of choice, a multi-modal transport hub, the gateway to Arran and the Clyde Islands and recognition as an exemplar in marine innovation and the blue economy.
- 1.2 By harnessing community wealth building, this programme will provide a powerful catalyst to stimulate economic growth, increase job opportunities and prosperity. An investment of this magnitude will shape the lives of many people from the local area and beyond and provide the positive stimulus needed to transform the opportunities and prospects of future generations to come. The ambition is therefore significant and is becoming a tangible reality with enabling infrastructure works due to commence in 2022. This report provides an update on the programme and its component projects with a particular focus on the investment required in enabling infrastructure to proceed.
- 1.3 The Ardrossan Regeneration programme comprises two key locations – Ardrossan North Shore – a 12.25 ha parcel of land which is one of the area’s high profile post-industrial sites and has been vacant for 40 years, and the adjacent Ardrossan Harbour which is home to one of the busiest ferry passenger terminals in Scotland. The combination of these sites has presented the Council with a significant opportunity to undertake the scale of regeneration programme described above. Substantial external investment has been secured from a variety of sources, recognising the national

priority of the programme.

- 1.4 The Ardrossan North Shore site requires remediation, works to address flood risk, and improvements to road and utility infrastructure. There have been extensive technical studies to inform a detailed understanding of the infrastructure solutions required to support the proposed developments across the whole site.
- 1.5 Consequently, the outline business case for the development of the Ardrossan North Shore site has been updated. To ensure that appropriate financial provision is incorporated within the 10-Year Capital Investment Programme, the technical requirements of the site's development, coupled with a challenging construction cost environment suggest the need for additional financial provision of up to £14.3M, with the potential for this to be reduced should the related UK Government Levelling Up Fund application be successful.
- 1.6 The programme for construction work indicates that the enabling infrastructure works require to commence in Spring 2022 to enable the start of construction of the first phase of projects including the community campus in late 2022. The additional investment requires to be committed so that the procurement process for the enabling infrastructure works can begin in Autumn 2021.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Ardrossan Strategic Regeneration Programme comprises a range of projects which are set to transform central Ardrossan and in North Shore, one of the largest vacant and derelict sites in Scotland which is identified as a key strategic location in the recently approved Regeneration Delivery Plan. These ambitious proposals represent the largest physical regeneration project in the local authority area since the 1970's. Table 1 below sets out each project and its status. This represents a transformational investment programme which aligns with the Council key strategic priority of creating a vibrant and welcoming and attractive environment and links to the key action to develop North Ayrshire as a coastal and island destination, attracting tourism investment and visitors. The proposal will also address issues including long standing derelict land, a lack of opportunity for employment and a lack of private sector investment. It will build on the earlier development of the Clyde Marina and residential, retail and leisure use between 2000-2010.

Table 1: Ardrossan Strategic Regeneration Programme Status

Ardrossan: Strategic Regeneration Element	Description of Project	Current Status of Project
North Shore Enabling Infrastructure works	Construction of a sea wall, remediation of the North Shore Site, provision of on-site road and utilities.	Technical work developed, tender package complete September 2021
Ardrossan Community Campus	A new community campus, which will replace Ardrossan Academy and Winton Primary School including early learning and childcare provision, public swimming pool and library and accommodation for health and social care staff.	Statutory Public Consultation completed Funding approved via Phase One of the Learning Estate Investment Programme (LEIP) Design team appointed
Ardrossan Harbour	Significant harbour improvements to ensure the long-term resilience of Ardrossan as the mainland port for the Arran and Campbeltown ferries.	Landside works awaiting consultation. Tender process for marina and landside works to proceed following conclusions of negotiations between Transport Scotland and Peel Ports
Ardrossan Connections	A new coastal path and improved links to the town centre.	Design of coastal path complete, requirement to implement works by September 2022 Recent consultation on Ardrossan Connections being considered
International Marine Science Centre (IMSE)	An innovation, research and development centre of excellence focusing on marine and environmental sustainability as part of a wider focus to create a blue economy ecosystem.	AGD project in deal documents. Working towards an Outline Business Case. Evolving partnership with a major Higher Education academic institution
Marina Development	A proposed extension to the existing marina as part of a wider programme of works to support the development of marine tourism	AGD project in deal documents. Outline design developed Working towards an Outline Business Case
Residential Development	An opportunity to introduce a range of housing types and tenures.	To be taken forwards once the campus is progressed

	Anticipated to deliver a capital receipt which is included in the outline business case	
Commercial Development	Proposals include the potential for a hotel, commercial and retail use	To be marketed once the campus is progressed

2.2 It is envisaged that the implementation of these ambitious proposals will deliver investment of c £170m. A summary of the proposed investment profile is included in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Ardrossan Strategic Regeneration Programme Financial Profile

Ardrossan: Strategic Regeneration Programme Investment Profile	Anticipated NAC Investment £m	Projected External Investment £m	Total £m
<u>Ardrossan North Shore</u>			
Enabling Infrastructure works	22.3	1.6	23.9
Ardrossan Community Campus*	61.9	-	61.9
IMSE	4	6.5	10.5
Ardrossan Marina***	0.6	9.5	10.1
Residential ****		15.0	15.0
Commercial Development**	-	6.0	6.0
Total	88.8	38.6	127.4
<u>Other Projects within the Ardrossan Programme</u>			
Ardrossan Harbour	3.7	33.9	37.6
Ardrossan Connections		2.0	2.0
Total	92.5	74.5	167

*Note that, as a revenue consequence of the investment in the Campus and dependent upon achievement of agreed outcomes, Scottish Government will provide revenue funding of £43.3m over a period of 25 years.

** Estimated investment levels based on site capacity and current discussions

*** Assumes funding secured from external sources

**** Final mix of housing and funding will be subject of further detailed consideration

Across the programme, it is projected that significant levels of external funding will be attracted to the area including the £43.3M in Scottish Government revenue funding for the campus over a 25-year period to match the Council's investment in the area.

Ardrossan North Shore Development Framework

2.3 The Planning Committee of 23rd April 2021 approved a Framework for the North Shore sites' development. An extract from this framework is included at Appendix 1. This illustrates the scale of development proposed at the site and the components of the sites' development which include:

- The community campus
- An International Marine Sciences and Education Centre (IMSE)
- Residential which could incorporate a mix of house types and tenures

- Commercial development, with the potential for a hotel, commercial leisure, and retail use
- A new coastal path

2.4 The community campus is the largest development on the site. As well as the significant educational, community and regeneration benefits this will bring, the potential for the campus to act as a catalyst and create opportunities for the private sector investment and employment suggested above, should be recognised. This catalytic effect was part of the decision to proceed with the North Shore site, alongside the development capacity and potential to secure Scottish Government funding support which was not the case with other options.

2.5 The Council's commitment and emerging plans have already allowed partnerships to be developed with third parties. In the case of the IMSE discussions with a major academic institution to act as a partner/tenant for the project are progressing well. In addition, interest in the sites' residential and commercial elements has already been expressed from the private sector, although it is considered that the maximum impact of this will be secured by marketing development opportunities once the campus development has been progressed, the local environment improved, and appropriate site infrastructure is in place.

Ardrossan North Shore Site Infrastructure

2.6 A summary of the technical requirements of the sites' development is provided below:

Sea Wall/Revetment

2.7 The revetment or sea wall will protect the north shore site from coastal erosion, wave impact and flood risk. The Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) Technical Flood Risk Guidance for Stakeholders (2019) advises that an education use requires the highest level of protection.

2.8 A flood risk assessment and wave analysis have informed the proposals for the revetment. The flood risk assessment identifies the level of protection the site requires to offer against flooding from rainwater, watercourses and rising sea levels or long-term climate change. The wave study identifies the protection the site requires to offer against wave action from the Firth of Clyde to the west.

2.9 The engineering proposals have been confirmed by a recent independent peer review of the engineering specification as well as the proposed construction materials.

Remediation and Earthworks

2.10 Members have previously been updated on proposals for the remediation of the North Shore site at the Council meeting on 23rd June 2021. Extensive site investigations have been undertaken and reports were published in October 2019 and June 2021.

Roads

2.11 New on-site road infrastructure is required which includes the construction of a spine road between the primary access at Barr Street and North Crescent Road to the north, and an access to the commercial area and campus/marina parking to the south. Part of the cost of road infrastructure will help to secure future capital receipts from residential development. Roads within the private residential area to the north will be

the later responsibility of a residential developer. Provision has also been made for wider transport and active travel improvements in central Ardrossan.

Site Infill

- 2.12 There are aspirations to enable residential and commercial development as outlined above. Residential development will be accommodated at the north and east of the site. The proposals for commercial development are however constrained by the c.1 ha available for development at the south of the marina basin, the area with the best commercial development potential.
- 2.13 It is proposed that additional development land is created by infilling land adjacent to the site at the marina basin and through a realignment of the revetment. This will allow the commercial development land to increase in size from c.1 ha to c. 2ha. This area will accommodate proposals for IMSE. In addition, advice on the commercial potential of the site suggests that provision should be made for a hotel development and commercial/retail uses as well as parking for the campus/marina. The increased area of land will allow all these aspirations to be accommodated and for the site to provide commercial, tourism and education opportunities.

Other Development Work/Site Infrastructure

- 2.14 As a more detailed design of the site has been progressed, proposals for additional infrastructure requirements have been identified including:
- Site utilities
 - A coastal path, with proposals for a 4m coastal path for active travel and outdoor education use
 - Public realm/landscaping, both adjacent to the coastal path and at the entrance to the campus overlooking the marina basin.

The Ardrossan North Shore Business Case

- 2.15 An outline business case for the North Shore site has been developed to provide a strategic and financial framework for the projects, enabling infrastructure requirements and relevant capital receipts. The Ardrossan North Shore projects have now been considered with a more detailed understanding of the site configurations and on-site works required to unlock the regeneration plans for the whole site. A prudent approach based on the worst-case scenario has been adopted to assess the budget requirement for these investment works.
- 2.16 As can be seen from Table 2, an estimated £23.9m is required for the enabling infrastructure works. This requires an estimated investment of up to £14.3m, additional to the £9.6m that has already been included in the March 2021 capital programme. The principal reasons for the investment include:
- Extensive technical work has now been undertaken on confirmation of funding from Scottish Government and Ayrshire Growth Deal as the main funding sources.
 - The in-depth technical analysis has reflected the requirements of the SEPA regulations, the outcome of the Flood Risk Assessment and climate change considerations. These have affected the volume of material required for the revetment and the level of the site.

- The implications of the detailed site investigations have informed the site remediation strategy.

2.17 The Ardrossan North Shore business case will continue to be updated through ongoing technical work. At this stage, while costs are based on developed designs for the enabling infrastructure works, there remains the potential for variation given that construction inflation is currently particularly volatile, that raw materials have been subject to significant price increases, and that the proposals are yet to proceed through all the statutory consents processes (planning, marine licences, roads construction consent, etc). The final business case position will be confirmed following the tender stage of the key construction contracts.

2.18 Further external funding opportunities will continue to be explored and assessed in support of the programme objectives. The remaining investment is proposed to be met through borrowing and incorporated into the 10 Year capital programme which will be subject to further review in 22/23 and addressed as part of the budget process.

Levelling up Fund

2.19 An application was submitted in June 2021 for £5M of funding from the UK Governments Levelling Up Fund. This would contribute to the cost of site infrastructure, with a focus on the commercial and residential development proposed within the site in line with the objectives of the fund. Given the deprivation statistics seen in the local area and the nature of the proposals, the application is seen as very much in line with any levelling up agenda. The application is linked to further funding applications for investment in the B714 road and the Lochshore site, which together would provide improved access to the Ayrshire Coast and the regeneration of the proposed tourism/leisure destinations. It is anticipated that the outcome of the application will be known around November 2021.

Programme Overview and Timelines

2.20 A high-level overview of the Ardrossan North Shore projects is included in Appendix 2. The site remediation works require to be implemented prior to the construction of the community campus, due to commence in late 2022. Timescales for site remediation are estimated to take up to 9 months, and with processes for the publication and award of contracts, the enabling infrastructure package requires to be published in Autumn 2021.

2.21 There is a need to move forward with construction works to be able to deliver the Community Campus at the earliest possible opportunity and in line with the project programme. The poor condition of Ardrossan Academy is a critical factor as well as being able to meet the Learning Estate Investment Programme funding criteria. In addition, any further delay is likely to impact on costs due to significant construction cost inflation.

3. Proposals

3.1 Council notes progress to date of the Ardrossan North Shore outline business case and agrees to further budget provision of up to £14.3M of investment in enabling infrastructure to support the development of a major strategic site.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

4.1 The capital programme agreed in March 2021 includes current budget provision of £92.0 M for investment in the Ardrossan North Shore projects (the campus, IMSE and marina). The current outline business case position following technical assessment of key infrastructure works indicates an investment requirement of £106.4M. Details of how the increase in expenditure will be funded are shown in the table below. This includes an additional £14.3m which would require to be met from prudential borrowing at an annual revenue cost of £0.700m per annum over 30 years. Subject to approval of the report this will be incorporated in the 2022/23 to 2024/25 Medium Term Financial plan and the review of the Capital investment Programme 2022/23 to 2030/31.

Funding Source	Capital Programme March 2021 £m	Updated Business Case September 2021 £m	Movement £m
Prudential Borrowing	69.6	83.9	14.3
Capital Receipts	4.1	4.1	-
Capital Fund Contribution	0.8	0.8	-
Ayrshire Growth Deal (SG and UKG)	12	12	-
Vacant and Derelict Land Fund	1.5	1.6	0.1
Other External funding	4.0	4.0	-
Total	92.0	106.4	14.4

The additional borrowing requirement would be reduced pending the outcome of the Levelling Up Fund bid. The application includes up to £5m costs in respect of the Ardrossan North Shore Development and a decision is anticipated around November 2021.

Costs have been developed through detailed design or engineering work, and advice from a cost consultant which has involved market testing of rates. Costs include sums for contingencies, mobilisation of contractors, etc. The challenging construction cost environment should be noted, and final costs cannot be confirmed until tender awards have been made. This position will be reflected in the final business case.

Human Resources

4.2 The development and implementation of site infrastructure works including remediation, the improvement of the sea wall, roads, etc will be managed by a dedicated project manager following a recruitment process.

Legal

4.3 The main infrastructure works have been developed by an engineer and environmental consultant, who will require to provide a warranty for site works and a validation process following the completion of construction works. Legal advice has been taken on the management of the two major construction works packages proposed proceeding concurrently (campus and enabling infrastructure packages). This will identify the processes required to minimise risk including the provision of separate construction site accesses and for collateral warranties.

Equality/Socio-economic

4.4 The proposals will bring a long term vacant and derelict site into beneficial use. This will have significant socio-economic benefits for the local community through the provision of a new community campus and other residential and commercial proposals.

Environmental and Sustainability

4.5 The proposals for the remediation of the site will involve considerable environmental benefit or betterment, in removing known contaminants within the site and the provision of new clean material to allow the sites development and safe use. The major package of investment will transform a longstanding derelict site and central Ardrossan.

Key Priorities

4.6 The site remediation proposals will help contribute to several of the Council Plan key priorities including:

- Inclusive, growing, and enterprising local economy.
- Developing North Ayrshire as a coastal and Island destination, attracting tourism investment and visitors.
- People enjoy good life-long health and well-being.
- Effective infrastructure and digital connectivity.
- Affordable, modern, and well-designed homes that meets residents' needs.
- Vibrant, welcoming, and attractive places.
- A sustainable environment.

Community Wealth Building

4.7 The report outlines the scale of the opportunity that will be released at the North Shore site and in the wider area. The proposals are the most significant regeneration proposal in the local area for many years, are identified as a strategic site within the recently approved Regeneration Delivery Plan and provide opportunities for significant improvements in Community Wealth Building and Placemaking.

4.8 The site remediation proposals will contribute to the Community Wealth Building objective of making the best use of our land and assets by bringing back into economic use one of the largest vacant and derelict sites in North Ayrshire. The developments will see the creation of good quality jobs for local people and through the investment into the campus and IMSE a range of skills and education

opportunities. IMSE has the potential to bring a new anchor institution to the area and the construction contracts will be procured adopting CWB principles.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Recent consultation on the development framework for the north shore site encouraged interested parties to engage with Council officers and made the offer of one-to-one meetings. Contacts through that process have been informed of the publication of the updated site remediation strategy and officers have met several times with representatives of a residents group concerned over site contamination including a meeting between the group and the environmental consultant.
- 5.2 Regular communication with local communities will be an ongoing feature of the development of the north shore site. Local groups or residents will be able to attend further drop-in sessions as the Community Campus design team develop designs for the site and through the planning process.

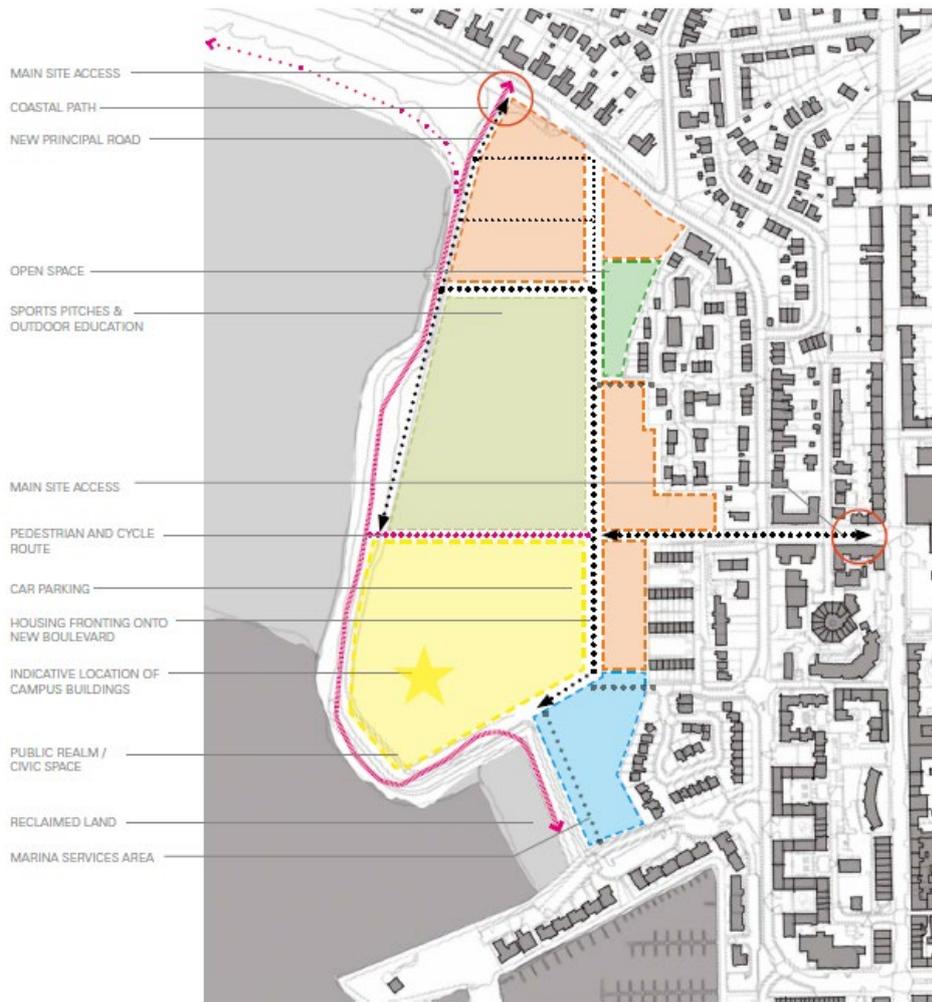
Karen Yeomans
Director, Growth & Investment

For further information please contact Alasdair Laurenson, **Senior Manager, Growth & Investment**, on 01294 324030.

Background Papers

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Appendix 1 – Development Framework



Appendix 2 – High Level Programme

	Q4 21/ 22	Q1 22/ 23	Q2 22/ 23	Q3 22/ 23	Q4 22/ 23	Q1 23/ 24	Q2 23/ 24	Q3 23/ 24	Q4 23/ 24	Q1 24/ 25	Q2 24/ 25	Q3 24/ 25	Q4 24/ 25	25/ 26	26/ 27	27/ 28
Enabling Infra-structure																
Community Campus																
Residential																
Commercial																
IMSE																
Marina																

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

8 September 2021

Council

Title: **Processes for Future Consultations**

Purpose: To provide an update on how future consultation would address the issues raised during the Review of Libraries, Halls and Community Centres and Development of Community Hubs.

Recommendation: That Council:

- a) Approves the recommendations for future consultations; and
- b) Authorises officers to implement the improvements.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This update has been provided in response to a motion to Council on 9 June 2021 in relation to the Review of Libraries, Halls and Community Centres and Development of Community Hubs. Council agreed the motion by Councillor Billings, seconded by Councillor Marshall, in the following terms: “to review the feedback received from respondents regarding the consultation process and report back to the Council on how future consultation would address the issues raised”.
- 1.2 The consultation was developed with a Stakeholder Reference Group, in line with The Consultation Institute’s best practice recommendations, and a mixed methodology was developed, taking into account the context of the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. The consultation channels included phone calls, to ensure participation was not reliant on digital access while the Council’s public buildings were closed under the Covid-19 restrictions, and an open software platform called Consul, which is supported by CoSLA.
- 1.3 A question relating to the process was included in the consultation, with 140 (47%) saying it was easy to use and understand and 159 (53%) disagreeing. There were 77 responses relating to Consul.
- 1.4 A number of improvements will be discussed with the CoSLA CONSUL support team. In addition, in response to the feedback about other aspects of the consultation, the existing advice will be further strengthened on the Engagement Hub on the Community Planning Partnership website for implementation in future consultations.

2. Background

- 2.1 Engagement, consultation and working with communities to deliver successful outcomes are at the core of the Council's daily work. Consultation is the way public organisations get feedback from people about the work that they are doing. Consultation is carried out in many ways- for example it can be done online, by telephone or face to face. They can be carried out on any topic or subject. They can be national and be about, for example, influencing major policies, or they can be carried out locally to help take difficult decisions or find out what people think about local issues. Good consultations make sure that local people and communities are involved in the decisions that affect their lives from day to day.
- 2.2 In North Ayrshire, the approach that has been developed is the "co-define, co-design and co-deliver" model. This has been established in partnership with the Consultation Institute and in line with the National Standards for Community Engagement.
- 2.3 Over the years, the Council worked with The Consultation Institute to develop its approach to public consultation and engagement and that has enabled co-design and co-delivery with communities, including Locality Partnerships. An extensive programme of accredited consultation training and events was developed by the Council for the Community Planning Partnership. This was delivered by The Consultation Institute to over 150 staff from across the CPP including the North Ayrshire Council, Health and Social Care Partnership, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, and the Third Sector Interface. The 6-day training courses developed understanding across the CPP and provided the skills needed for equitable and robust consultation and engagement. North Ayrshire Council's approach to the co-design and co-delivery was awarded The Consultation Institute's 2016 Award for Consultation, secured 2 CoSLA Bronze Awards in 2017 and 2018, and was a finalist in the 2017 APSE awards. The Council's 2020 Best Value Audit Report notes: *The council is committed to community empowerment and its work to mainstream community input into day-to-day decision making is recognised nationally. Despite challenges, the council has worked to engage with hard-to-reach groups.*
- 2.4 The Council's existing Community Consultation Process has been designed meet the Institute's Charter Principles:
- Integrity – There must be an honest intent to consult;
 - Visibility – Communication with all must create a high level of awareness on how to participate;
 - Accessibility – It must be easy for those who wish to be involved, to become involved
 - Confidentiality and Transparency – The Freedom of Information Act makes it almost impossible to keep things confidential between public bodies, but all parties need to be aware of the public interest test and of the principles of openness and transparency;
 - Disclosure – Both the consultors and consultees need to be totally open with each other and not conceal or withhold information which might prevent dialogue;
 - Fair interpretation – There is a strict burden upon consultors to analyse and interpret consultation data objectively and present it in the same way; and

- Publication – It is critical that everyone who took part in the consultation gets to see what happened as a result. Ideally the consultees will recognise that their input is reflected in any publication and resultant outcome.
- 2.5 A range of partners and learners came together to provide a suite of resources to support the quality of the engagement and the Community Engagement Toolkit/Hub was created. The North Ayrshire Community Engagement Toolkit/hub aims to support and promote effective community engagement practice carried out across North Ayrshire by the Community Planning Partnership (CPP), the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP), and their respective Locality Partnerships and Locality Forums. The Community Engagement Network (CEN) is hosted by North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership. It is the community engagement reference group for this toolkit/hub, support and development forum for the Engagement Champions and a networking opportunity for all partners involved in community engagement.
- 2.6 The purpose of the consultation, which took place between 5 March 2021 and 5 May 2021, was to gather the opinions of the local communities on the proposals around community hubs and the future roles of libraries, halls and community centres. The consultation was based on two previous engagements. In line with The Consultation Institute's best practice recommendations, a Stakeholder Reference Group was identified to represent key interests, and the methodology was agreed.
- 2.4 The mixed methodology was developed with the Stakeholder Reference Group and offered both online and telephone access to log views, as well as mailing alerts with Council Tax bills and adding information and links to electronic bills. The consultation process was conducted on the CONSUL platform, supported by CoSLA. In addition, there have been two press releases covered by local newspapers across North Ayrshire. A video was developed for use across social media. The Council also circulated information on social media. Alerts were sent to local contacts, users or members of the North Ayrshire Federation of Community Organisation (NAFCO), Community Facilities Service and Library Service. Elected Members were briefed in December 2020 and January 2021. Locality-based stakeholder discussion meetings were held by the Connected Communities Team, who also received email and petition submissions and provided the telephone call-back service, which enabled those without digital access to make their views known.
- 2.5 CONSUL is designed to be a tool used by government bodies to engage with citizens, it allows for citizens to propose ideas that can be reviewed and voted on by others. CONSUL is used in 35 countries, by 135 institutions and has approximately 90 million users. One of the key differences is that in many of the countries, citizens have a national identity number, which addresses the feedback about registration. North Ayrshire Council is one of the pilots in the use of the CONSUL platform for participatory democracy. The consultation questions were reviewed and amended by locality teams and the platform was tested, prior to the launch.
- 2.6 A question relating to the process was included in the consultation, with 140 (47%) saying it was easy to use and understand and 159 (53%) disagreeing. There were 77 responses relating to CONSUL. The key issues for the public were access and functionality. These were discussed during the consultation with the development team at CoSLA, who provide the national IT support for the platform. The public feedback included:

- Creating an account was seen as cumbersome;
- Some functionality issues were highlighted e.g. uncertainty if comments have been published, text size being too small, no spellcheck, inability to edit comments made in an earlier question and not having the ability to save comments separately;
- There are no guidelines for citizens on what happens to their comments and how to set up their username;
- Some people who wanted to comment on several locations struggled to navigate CONSUL and get back to the location list; and
- CONSUL is open and people can see all questions, which leads to a tendency for people to put answers in the wrong questions and/or repeat same comment in other questions.

2.7 As a result of a review of the feedback, the following advice will be sent to the development team at CoSLA:

- Review methods to view all new messages and interactions so that it is easier for participants to see these;
- Consider developing the ability to create an account/log in using Google/Facebook log in or via their Council online account;
- Advise of the need for clear signage on what to do with answer submission, more help text, “how to” guide for users, for example, clearly letting users know that their username will be made public if they submit comments;
- Explore the ability to increase text size for visually impaired and take into account those who may not know how to do this on their device;
- Consider developing integrated spell check functionality;
- Investigate a function for anonymous users to submit comments, either mediated or sent directly to the service running the consultation;
- Review the navigation to improve accessibility around the consultation, such as a sidebar with links to other pages relating to the current consultation; and
- Consider introducing the ability to make some questions mandatory or hide questions until a pre-requisite is completed, as this helps the respondent to navigate subsets of questions which ‘branch out’.

2.8 The Council has now been using CONSUL for a few years and supports CoSLA to review its usability and effectiveness. CoSLA is currently progressing work to link with My Account and use of artificial intelligence code to make access simpler. This is currently being piloted with Moray Council, with a view to being rolled out more widely. There is also a new post being filled within Cosla to support the development. Connected Communities will create a focus group to provide feedback on the pilot and to help further shape the development of its use in participatory democracy.

2.9 The feedback about other aspects of the consultation process related to:

- design and layout;
- supporting information; and
- timing, public awareness and participation via non-digital means (see 2.4).

2.10 As a result of the review of the feedback about other aspects of the consultation, the future consultation processes will be further strengthened by:

- Providing more information for potential participants on how to participate with clear and simple instructions on the consultation landing page on website.
- Including the data protection disclaimer on the landing page.
- Using graphs and infographics, as this makes information stand out more and is simpler and clearer for participants.
- Streamline the survey questions with more emphasis on quantitative data rather than qualitative to reduce the levels of duplication.

These changes will be implemented in future consultation stakeholder reference groups, training and updated on the Engagement Hub on the Community Planning Partnership website.

2.11 The Transformation Team, who analysed the public feedback, provided a report which was attached as Appendix 1 in the Council Paper of 9 June 2021. The Team also provided their own feedback on the consultation process related to design and functionality of CONSUL regarding data extraction, which will be discussed with the team at CoSLA.

3. Proposals

3.1 That Council:

- a) Approves the recommendations for future consultations; and
- b) Authorises officers to implement the improvements.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

4.1 None

Human Resources

4.2 Connected Communities provide advice from the existing Connected Communities team for public engagement and consultation and will take the recommendations forward as outlined in 2.6 and 2.7.

Legal

4.3 None.

Equality/Socio-economic

4.4 Consultation is a fundamental element of open, transparent and democratic government. Fairness and equality are at the heart of community empowerment,

public engagement and consultation. The use of consultation mandates and support for stakeholder reference groups to ensure that methodologies and consultation wording are inclusive and wide-reaching will continue to be supported by Connected Communities.

Environmental and Sustainability

4.5 None.

Key Priorities

4.6 The proposal contained within the report supports the North Ayrshire Council Plan priorities:

- Active and strong communities;
- Inclusive, growing and enterprising local economy;
- People enjoy good life-long health and wellbeing; and
- Vibrant and welcoming places

Community Wealth Building

4.7 Community Wealth Building is the economic context in which consultations are developed. The proposals contained within the report will provide opportunities which encourage democratic participation and personal growth, creating strong communities ready to make the most of community wealth building opportunities.

5. Consultation

5.1 The proposals contained within this report has been developed by the through public feedback from the Review of Libraries, Halls and Community Centres and Development of Community Hubs consultation, including Elected Members, partners and key stakeholders. In addition, the Transformation Team, some Elected Members and NAFCO provided comments on specific aspects, addressed in 2.6 and 2.7.

Caroline Amos
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For further information please contact **Rhona Arthur, Head of Service, Connected Communities**, on **01294 324415**.

Background Papers

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