



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

North Ayrshire Council

A Meeting of North Ayrshire Council will be held in the **Council Chambers, Ground Floor, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE** on **Wednesday, 14 May 2025** at **14:00** to consider the undernoted business.

Meeting Arrangements - Hybrid Meetings

This meeting will be held on a predominantly physical basis but with provision, by prior notification, for remote attendance by Elected Members 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>.

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 Meeting of the Council held on 26 March 2025 will be confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7(1) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (copy enclosed).

4 Provost's Report

Submit report by the Provost for the period covering 17 March to 4 May 2025 (copy enclosed).

5 Leader's Report

Submit report by the Leader of the Council for the period covering 17 March to 4 May 2025 (copy enclosed).

- 6 Minute Volume (issued under separate cover)**
Submit, for noting and for approval of any recommendations contained therein, the Minutes of Meetings of committees of the Council held in the period 13 March - 23 April 2025.
- 7 Appointments to Outside Bodies**
The Council is invited to consider a proposal by Councillor D. Reid, seconded by Councillor Cullinane, that Councillor Hume be appointed to serve on the West of Scotland European Forum.
- 8 Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board: Minutes of Meeting**
Submit report by the Executive Director (Communities and Housing) on the Minutes of the Community Planning Partnership Board held on 10 March 2025 (copy enclosed).
- 9 Irvine: Plan for Neighbourhoods**
Submit a report by the Executive Director (Place) on an update to UK Government on the Irvine Neighbourhood Board and to provide an update on the refreshed 'Plan for Neighbourhoods' programme (copy enclosed).
- 10 Questions**
In terms of Standing Order 14, submit:-

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

Since being contacted by families of children who attend Lockhart Campus, whose school transport is either being removed or the mode of transport being changed, the Council has responded to me, and addressed the issue in the press, with different messages:

- Initially, as part of a transport review, transport arrangements at Lockhart were being reviewed and we were told; 'having an additional need does not in and of itself entitle you to school transport'
- Then it was that the internal guidance and process for school transport has been amended, as part of the review, but no child at Lockhart would be affected
- Then the press were told that the transport policy hasn't changed since 2021
- Then the Cabinet Member repeated the above, whilst also making the bold claim that NAC spends more per pupil on education than other local authorities, without evidence, to justify changes

It's clear there's been a review. It's been openly stated that the guidance and process has changed. And it's clear from my casework, and others, that children with additional support needs are having their school transport cut.

Will the administration take some responsibility and join us in opposing any cuts to school transport for kids with additional support needs?

(2) a question by Councillor Murdoch to the Cabinet Member for Communities, Housing and the Islands in the following terms:

What has North Ayrshire Council done to create stronger links between Largs, North Ayrshire, and Brisbane Australia, since I presented our Provost with the message from Adrian Schinner, Lord Mayor of Brisbane, during the Full Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13th September 2023?

(3) a question by Councillor Hume to the Cabinet Member for Communities, Housing and the Islands in the following terms:

Last December, elected members were assured that the clearance of the former battery recycling centre site at Byrehill, Kilwinning was nearing completion and the remaining structure would be demolished by the Spring.

That clearly did not happen, with the second fire happening just a few weeks ago.

Byrehill is no longer just an industrial estate, it is now also a residential area. It's where people's home are. It is unacceptable that my constituents have had to endure these two fires, with all the worry, and damage to personal property, that they have brought.

Whilst SEPA is the licensing authority, and the company that operated the recycling facility has went into administration, what assurances can the Council, as part of our resilience responsibilities and our work with partners, give my constituents in Byrehill that all remaining materials will be removed from the site as soon as possible?

(4) a question by Councillor Murdoch to the Cabinet Member for Communities, Housing and the Islands in the following terms:

What is the current position and intentions for the tennis courts in Douglas Park, Largs and is North Ayrshire Council happy with the decision made during the December 14th 2022 Full Council Meeting?

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

Given that the Council assessed the wrong stretch of road in Largs, what faith does the Cabinet Member have in the safety assessments carried out to support the administrations cut to school crossings patrollers?

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

Can the cabinet member tell me when they expect to have achieved all of the savings for their VER scheme?

(7) a question by Councillor Hume to the Green Environment and Economy in the following terms:

Can the Cabinet Member outline what proactive steps the Council takes to re-let high street properties when tenancies come to an end, to ensure they are not left empty to become a further blight on our town centres?

(8) a question by Councillor Sweeney to the Green Environment and Economy in the following terms:

Following storm Eowyn Harvies Leisure Centre experienced extensive damage. Communication is key and we need to keep stakeholders updated. I appreciate that there is a need to finalise details relating to the procurement process and insurance position. However, could you please advise when you expect all repairs at Auchendarvie Leisure Centre to be completed, including the swimming pool roof, and also advise when the swimming pool will re-open?

(9) a question by Councillor Foster to the Health and Social Care in the following terms:

A central part of keeping The Promise is removing the profit that is syphoned off by private care providers and reinvesting that money back into public services that support Care Experienced people, The Promise states "Scotland must make sure that its most vulnerable children are not profited from." Can the cabinet member tell me how much has been spent with profit making providers relating to services for Care Experienced children and young people in the previous three financial years?

11 Motions

In terms of Standing Order 15, submit:-

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

Council notes with serious concern the second fire that occurred at the former battery recycling site on Byrehill Place, Kilwinning.

Council further notes that:

- This is the second significant fire incident at the site, following a previous fire in 2024, which raised similar concerns about public safety and environmental risk.
- The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) has previously served two enforcement notices relating to the site.
- SEPA has since removed the waste management licence from the operator, Fenix, due to ongoing non-compliance.
- Despite these regulatory actions, hazardous materials remained on the site, posing an ongoing risk to the surrounding community.

Council acknowledges the prompt and professional response by North Ayrshire

Council officers, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Police Scotland, and other emergency services in mitigating the impact of the most recent incident.

Council agrees that the Chief Executive should write to SEPA to:

- Request an explanation as to why the site was not successfully remediated following the first fire and the enforcement notices.
- Ask why hazardous materials were allowed to remain on-site for an extended period after Fenix's licence was removed.
- Seek a clear and detailed timeline for the full clearance and remediation of the site.
- Request assurances on the general ongoing risk management of the site and an assessment of the likelihood of a third fire or other hazardous incident occurring in the future, and what steps are being taken to prevent this.

Council further calls for ongoing updates to be provided to elected members and the community to ensure transparency and public reassurance.

(2) A motion by Councillor T Ferguson, seconded by Councillor Marshall, in the following terms:

This Council recognises the growing concerns around the impact of mobile phone and digital device usage on pupil wellbeing, concentration, and the overall learning environment in schools. In light of these concerns and best practice observed in other local authorities, including Perth and Kinross, this Council agrees to develop and adopt a consistent, authority-wide approach to mobile phone and digital device use in all North Ayrshire schools.

Accordingly, this Council instructs the Education Service to commence developing a policy to cover the use of mobile phones and digital devices in schools. It is suggested that the following parameters are considered as part of the development of policy:

- The circumstances for any permitted use of mobile phones and digital devices in a classroom or exam room setting;
- Digital responsibility, safety and respectful use including any use in a recreational setting;
- Policy exemptions to reflect the needs of pupils including medical and support needs and individual circumstances;
- That pupils, parents, carers and staff are consulted in the development of the new policy for their views to be taken into account; and
- That an appropriate ECRIA is undertaken as part of the process.

Once the draft policy has been developed, a report should be brought to Council for consideration and approval.

This motion seeks to ensure consistency across the authority, protect learning time, and promote pupil wellbeing in a rapidly changing digital world.

Council is asked to support this motion.

(3) A motion by Councillor T Ferguson, seconded by Councillor Inglis in the following terms:

This Council acknowledges the recent ruling by the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, issued on 15th April 2025, which affirms that the legal definition of “woman” refers to biological sex.

Considering this landmark judgment, this Council recognises the need to ensure that all its policies, guidance, and practices are in full compliance with the law. The ruling has significant implications for the interpretation and implementation of equality law, particularly in relation to the provision of single-sex spaces and the teaching of gender-related topics.

Therefore, this Council agrees to the following actions:

1. Undertake a comprehensive review of all Council policies and guidance to ensure that they align with the legal definition of “woman” as determined by the Supreme Court.
2. Conduct a full review of guidance around single-sex spaces in all Council-run facilities, including but not limited to schools, libraries, and community buildings, to ensure the lawful and appropriate provision of single-sex services.
3. Instruct the Education Service to carry out a review of gender-related content in school curricula, including Health & Wellbeing and equalities education, to ensure that teaching materials and approaches are in line with the Supreme Court’s definition and comply with relevant legislation.
4. Ask KA leisure to carry out a full review of guidance around single-sex spaces in their facilities to ensure the lawful and appropriate provision of single-sex services.

This Council reaffirms its commitment to upholding the law, promoting clarity in public service provision, and ensuring the protection and inclusion of all residents in a manner that respects legal definitions and human rights.

Council is asked to support this motion and instruct officers to begin this review process with immediate effect.

(4) A motion by Councillor Sweeney, seconded by Councillor Currie, in the following terms:

Council opposes cuts to school transport for pupils with additional support needs and agrees to reinstate current transport entitlement to pupils who have been informed of changes to their entitlement for 2025/26.

(5) A motion by Councillor Hume, seconded by Councillor Angus-McDonald, in the following terms:

With the rise of toxic masculinity as a societal issue, Council agrees to consider adoption of a policy to reduce misogyny in schools.

Council notes that any policy will be subject to engagement with schools and trade unions and appropriately equalities impact assessed.

Council agrees that, following this period of engagement, a paper will come to a future meeting of full council to consider the adoption of a formal policy on reducing misogyny in schools.

(6) A motion by Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Foster, in the following terms:

In terms of Standing Order 23.1, Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Foster, moved to suspend Standing Orders to allow consideration of a motion.

12 Urgent Items

Any other items which the Chair considers to be urgent.

Webcasting

Please note: this meeting may be filmed/recorded/live-streamed to the Council's internet site and available to view at <https://north-ayrshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>, 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 filmed/recorded/live-streamed.

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Generally, the press and public will not be filmed. However, by entering the Council Chambers and using the press or public seating area, you acknowledge that you may be filmed and that any information pertaining to you contained in the video and oral recording of the meeting will be used for webcasting or training purposes and for the purpose of keeping historical records and making those records available to the public. In making this use of your information the Council is processing data which is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest.

If you have any queries regarding this and, in particular, if you believe that use and/or storage of any particular information would cause, or be likely to cause, substantial damage or distress to any individual, please contact dataprotectionofficer@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

North Ayrshire Council Sederunt

Nairn Angus-McDonald
John Bell
Marie Burns
Eleanor Collier
Joe Cullinane
Charles Currie
Scott Davidson
Anthea Dickson
Stewart Ferguson
Todd Ferguson
Robert Foster
Scott Gallacher
Tony Gurney
Alan Hill
Mary Hume
Cameron Inglis
Margaret Johnson
Amanda Kerr
Christina Larsen
Shaun Macaulay
Jean McClung
Matthew McLean
Louise McLaughlan
Davina McTiernan
Tom Marshall
Jim Montgomerie
Ian Murdoch
Donald Reid
Donald L Reid
Chloe Robertson
Ronnie Stalker
Angela Stephen
John Sweeney

Chair:

Apologies:

Attending:

At a Meeting of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m. involving a combination of participation by remote electronic means and physical attendance within the Council Chambers, Irvine.

Present (Physical Participation)

Nairn Angus-McDonald, John Bell, Marie Burns, Eleanor Collier, Joe Cullinane, Charles Currie, Scott Davidson, Anthea Dickson, Stewart Ferguson, Todd Ferguson, Robert Foster, Scott Gallacher, Tony Gurney, Alan Hill, Cameron Inglis, Margaret Johnson, Christina Larsen, Shaun Macaulay, Jean McClung, Matthew McLean, Davina McTiernan, Donald Reid, Chloé Robertson, Ronnie Stalker, Angela Stephen and John Sweeney.

Present (Remote Electronic Participation)

Jim Montgomerie and Donald L Reid.

In Attendance

C. Hatton, Chief Executive; C. Cameron, Director (Health and Social Care Partnership); D. Hammond, Executive Director (Communities and Housing); S. Anson, Executive Director (Education), R. McCutcheon, Executive Director (Place); M. Boyd, Head of Service (Finance); A. Craig, Head of Service (Democratic), R. Lynch, Senior Manager (Legal Services); M. McColm, Senior Manager (Communications), C. Stewart and S. Wilson, Committee Services Officers (Democratic) (Corporate Services).

Chair

Provost Dickson in the Chair.

Apologies

Mary Hume, Amanda Kerr, Louise McLaughlan, Tom Marshall and Ian Murdoch.

1. Provost's Remarks

The Provost welcomed those present to the meeting and dealt with preliminary matters, including intimation that the meeting, which was taking place on a hybrid basis, was being recorded.

2. Apologies

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

3. Declarations of Interest

In terms of Standing Order 11 and Section 5 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, Councillor Robertson declared an interest in item 9 - Equalities and Children's Rights Impact Assessment: Exemption of care experienced learners from the policy on school exclusion due to her employment with Aberlour Children's Charity. Councillor Robertson left the meeting and took no part in the deliberation or determination of that item.

There were no declarations of the Party Whip.

4. Previous Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 12 February 2025 and the Special Meeting held on 26 February 2025 were 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 3 February – 16 March 2025.

Noted.

6. Leader's Report

Submitted report by the Leader of the Council for the period for from 3 February – 16 March 2025.

Noted.

7. Council Minute Volume

Submitted for noting the Minutes of meetings of committees of the Council held in the period 5 February - 5 March 2025.

Noted.

8. Appointments to Outside Bodies

The Council agreed to appoint Councillor Collier to serve on the Glasgow Prestwick Airport Consultative Committee.

9. Equalities and Children's Rights Impact Assessment: Exemption of care experienced learners from the policy on school exclusion

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Education) on the equalities and children's rights impact assessment on whether care experienced learners should be exempt from the policy on school exclusion.

Following an earlier declaration of interest, Councillor Robertson left the meeting at this point.

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

- work undertaken to encourage engagement with the consultation;
- the number of care experienced pupils who were subject to a reduced timetable in recent years; and
- the number of appeals submitted against the decision to exclude care experienced pupils in recent years.

Councillor Macaulay, seconded by Councillor McTiernan moved the recommendation within the report.

As an amendment, Councillor Foster, Seconded by Councillor Sweeney proposed the following:

“The recommendation within this paper does not keep the promise to Care Experienced people, Council instructs officers to start the process of changing our exclusions policy to cease the practice of excluding Care Experienced pupils.”

There followed summing up.

On a division and a roll call vote, there voted for the motion, Councillors Burns, Collier, Davidson, Dickson, S. Ferguson, T. Ferguson, Gallacher, Gurney, Hill, Inglis, Johnson, Larsen, Macaulay, McClung, McLean, McTiernan, D.L. Reid, Stalker and Stephen (19) and for the amendment, Councillors Angus-McDonald, Bell, Cullinane, Currie, Foster, Montgomerie, Reid and Sweeney (8). The motion was declared carried.

The Council therefore agreed to (a) note the content of the equalities and children’s rights impact assessment; (b) approve the recommendation that the option to exclude from school as a last resort should be retained; and (c) task the education service to further strengthen early intervention and preventative approaches, in line with the evidence presented through the ECRJA, with a view to minimising the number of excluded pupils who are care experienced, and to work towards meeting the policy intent of the Promise.

Councillor Robertson rejoined the meeting at this point.

10. Questions

In terms of Standing Order 14, submitted:

- (1) a question by Councillor Sweeney to the Cabinet Member for Communities, Housing and the Islands in the following terms:

To ask the Cabinet Member for the number of people in employment who have had to use NAC Temporary Furnished Accommodation since September 2023 due to being homeless?

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

Since September 2023, the number of people in employment who have utilised temporary accommodation is 53.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Sweeney made reference to a motion by Council in September 2023 instructing a review of the policy and management of temporary furnished accommodation - including any possible adaptations or improvements which could be made to alleviate hardship. He asked if the Cabinet Member would agree to work with him to ensure improvements had been made to

the service and the communications process with tenants, to alleviate the concerns of tenants relative to accumulation of debt.

Councillor Hill responded by advising a meeting could be arranged with the appropriate officers to address these issues.

(2) a question by Councillor Inglis to the Cabinet Member for Communities, Housing and the Islands in the following terms:

With libraries being saved in the budget this year, can the cabinet member confirm if Libraries such as the Saltcoats in my ward will still face a reduction in hours of 20%?

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

A decision was taken by full Council in February 2024 in relation to a 20% reduction in opening hours across the library estate. Officers developed a service delivery model in order to progress this decision; however, we then entered the budget engagement exercise which included further proposals for consultation in relation to our libraries. Extensive feedback was gathered through that process regarding the variety of services provided within library spaces, in particular the value of community space within the buildings.

The next steps are therefore for officers to consider this rich feedback, and the previous decision of Council, as part of the Council's wider land and property transformation programme.

Any proposals that may emerge from that work would be the subject of appropriate future engagement including with elected members, the local community and other important stakeholders.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Inglis asked why this review was included in the land and property transformation programme and not considered as a separate review of the library service?

Councillor Hill responded by advising that library buildings deliver a wide range of Council services therefore it was not appropriate to review as a single service however, each building will be reviewed on an individual basis and local ward Members will be involved in any future discussions.

(3) a question by Councillor McLean to the Cabinet Member for Communities, Housing and the Islands in the following terms:

Is the commitment originating from the SNP budget amendment to create a wellbeing hub in the former teacher centre at Greenwood, a new policy commitment/proposal?

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

At the Council budget setting meeting on 26th February 2025, new non-recurring investment of £300,000 was agreed to support the exploration of a wellbeing enterprise hub at the current Greenwood Conference Centre during 2025/26. The first phase of that work is a feasibility study to identify and scope options and examine their viability and fit with the desired wellbeing outcomes set out in our Council Plan and Partnership Plan, alongside the emerging work with the Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland.

The project is an example of an exciting and innovative opportunity as part of our Community Wealth Building Strategy, specifically the commitment under the Land and Assets pillar to maximise all of our land and assets including through alternative uses for community and economic benefit.

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

To ask the Cabinet Member how many North Ayrshire Council staff have received VER packages of over £100k, and their job titles, since 2022?

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

No individuals have received a VER payment of over £100k.

Individuals who were accepted to leave under voluntary release are entitled to a severance payment.

Where an employee is a pension member and has reached the relevant age requirements, they must take immediate payment of their pension relating to that employment when leaving under voluntary release. Associated with this is a strain on the fund cost which the Employer must pay.

There were 26 individuals whose combination of both their severance payment (i.e. the payment received by the employee) and the strain on the fund costs (i.e. that borne by the Employer) amounted to over £100k from the period April 2022-March 2025.

The job titles for these individuals have not been provided as these are considered to be personal data and the information could be used to identify individuals who held those posts. However, these individuals were located in the following directorates: Corporate (8), Education (5), Place (3), Communities & Housing (8) & HSCP (2).

As a supplementary question, Councillor Foster referred to a VER package at a total cost of £318k for one member of staff and asked if the Cabinet Member could guarantee that this package met the criteria of the VER scheme particularly around the time period to make a saving within the policy and explain how a package at this level was possible when awarded to grades below the Executive Leadership Team level?

Councillor Larsen responded and advised she would not be able to comment, however the VER process was agreed by the Staffing and Recruitment Committee and that to her knowledge, all processes were followed correctly in that regard.

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

To ask the cabinet member for education if data from the 2021/22 school health and wellbeing census is publicly available?

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

The Scottish Government published a statistical publication on the Health and Wellbeing Census Scotland 2021- 2022 on the 28th of February 2023. This can be found online. North Ayrshire Council, which was one of 16 local authorities to undertake the survey, did not make our local data publicly available. In addition, all data collected by North Ayrshire as part of the health and wellbeing census was fully cleansed to prevent pupil identification.

As a supplementary question, Councillor T Ferguson asked if the Member agreed that all the public data that is available for North Ayrshire students should be removed until the investigation was concluded by the Scottish Government?

Councillor Macaulay responded and advised that it was his understanding that North Ayrshire Council's data was not published online and that reports suggesting the data would be publicly accessible through the Scottish Government's research agency was not progressed by the Cabinet Secretary. Councillor Macaulay noted that he is more than happy to follow this up to ensure this is still the case.

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

Does North Ayrshire's policies or guidance related to single-sex spaces, a) distinguish between bathrooms and any other space, such as changing rooms?, b) Is it consistent across all establishments; Council buildings, employee spaces, Early Learning Centres/Nurseries, primary schools, secondary schools, ASN schools and non-mainstream educational settings (such as educational units, youth homes etc.)?

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

No dedicated policy or guidance exists in relation to this issue. Practice within individual settings is based upon a range of factors that balance relevant legislation and the specific circumstances of the setting.

As a supplementary question, Councillor McLean asked if there was a risk to North Ayrshire Council, as a result of not having any guidance or policies which might in turn impact members of staff.

Councillor Macaulay responded and advised that he was of the view that the risk to North Ayrshire Council was minimal as staff ensure that the spaces and facilities are in alignment with the Equality Act 2010. Councillor Macaulay noted, he had not received any notification of concerns raised however if the Member had any specific concerns, he would advise that these are raised urgently to allow officers to implement appropriate mitigations to ensure our spaces are safe for people to use.

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

To ask the Cabinet Member to provide the Council's School Level Pupil Teacher Ratio, including the number of qualified teachers who are centrally employed and included in the PTR calculation?

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

Based on 2024 census data, the pupil teacher ratio for North Ayrshire Council is 12.4. This compares favourably against the PTR for Scotland which is 13.3. Our PTR is based on a total teacher full-time equivalent staff of 1373fte, of which 49.9fte teachers are recorded in the category of centrally employed.

School leave PTRs are included in the table below.

School name	PTR 2024
Centrally employed	0.0
Corrie Primary School	6.3
Pirnmill Primary School	6.4
Kilmory Primary School	8.0
Shiskine Primary School	8.9
Gateside Primary School	9.1
Cumbræ Primary School	9.1
Dreghorn Primary School	9.2
Brodick Primary School	9.7
St John's Primary School	9.8
Elderbanks Primary School	9.9
Springside Primary School	10.0
St Winning's Primary School	10.1
Whiting Bay Primary School	10.2
Montgomerie Park Primary School (New School)	10.5
Lamlash Primary School	10.6
Ardeer Primary School	10.7
Blacklands Primary School	10.9
Loudoun-Montgomery Primary School	11.3
St Palladius' Primary School	11.4
Winton Primary School	11.7
St Peter's Primary School	12.1
Skelmorlie Primary School	12.3
Hayocks Primary School	12.5

Caledonia Primary School	12.9
Pennyburn Primary School	12.9
St Bridget's Primary School	13.0
St Mary's Primary School	13.6
St Mark's Primary School	13.9
Moorpark Primary School	14.0
Mayfield Primary School	14.2
Dykesmains Primary School	14.3
Garnock Community Campus	14.4
Fairlie Primary School	14.4
Corsehill Primary School	14.7
Whitehirst Park Primary	14.8
Abbey Primary School	15.1
Woodlands Primary School	15.8
Lawthorn Primary School	15.9
Glencairn Primary School	15.9
Castlepark Primary School	16.1
St Luke's Primary School	16.2
St John Ogilvie Primary School	16.3
Glebe Primary School	16.4
Beith Primary School	16.5
Stanley Primary School	16.6
St Anthony's Primary School	16.6
West Kilbride Primary School	17.7
Dalry Primary School	17.8
Largs Primary School	18.6
Annick Primary School	18.6
Arran High School	7.9
Ardrossan Academy	10.5
Kilwinning Academy	11.7
Auchenharvie Academy	11.8
Irvine Royal Academy	11.9
Garnock Community Campus	12.5
Largs Academy	13.3
Greenwood Academy	13.8
St Matthew's Academy	14.0
Lockhart Campus	5.0
	12.4

As a supplementary question, Councillor Angus-McDonald asked if the Cabinet Member believed the figures to be an accurate reflection of the teacher numbers in our classrooms given the inclusion of centrally employed teachers and the variants, for example, between Annick Primary School with a PTR of 18.6 and Kilmory Primary School with a PTR of 8?

Councillor Macaulay responded and confirmed that there was some variation between schools. Councillor Macaulay noted that teachers that are centrally

employed provide a very valuable service in the Education Service and advised the Member to speak to some of them about the excellent work they do to ensure that high quality learning and teaching is present in all schools across North Ayrshire. As a final point, Councillor Macaulay noted that the pupil teacher ratio was not created by North Ayrshire Council and is a measurement that local authorities across Scotland use.

Councillor Macaulay took the opportunity to thank every member of Education staff, whether employed centrally or within schools and communities, for the excellent work that they do.

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

To ask the Member what celebrations the council have planned to recognise the 80th Anniversary of VE Day?

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

The upcoming 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe day is an important commemorative event and opportunity for communities to come together. Officers have been developing plans for a programme of activity related to the anniversary alongside consideration of support to local communities in developing their own remembrance plans.

Following on from previous, similar anniversaries, the Pageant Master has asked that councils and local communities consider taking part in a range of national and local events on 8th May. These include raising of the special VE 80th anniversary commemorative flag, reading of the declaration, reading of a VE Day tribute, pipers playing from the UK's four highest peaks, lighting of beacons, and gathering in community spaces together to reflect.

Plans are being developed by officers for the flag raising, reading of the Declaration and reading the VE Day Tribute. The readings will be pre-recorded and shared on social media at the appropriate times.

In addition, local communities will be encouraged to take part in as many of the national events as possible and a small amount of funding has been made available to provide assistance for arranging local events. Details of the fund are currently being finalised and will be issued shortly along with ongoing communications to raise awareness of the anniversary.

Information will also be shared with local schools who will be encouraged to consider delivering appropriate learning activities and events in their own school communities to mark this significant anniversary.

Further updates will be shared with members in the coming weeks as community plans continue to take shape.

Councillor T Ferguson thanked the Member for his response and noted thanks to Officers for their support to address issues faced by the community group on Cumbrae.

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

How many young people does North Ayrshire Council, or its staff, including teachers, social workers, support workers etc, assist in 'socially transitioning' without the knowledge of their parents/guardians?

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

We do not collect data or information around the number of young people who are being supported in this way.

However, social transitioning is a very personal, intimate, and complex journey and can vary from person to person. Staff would always encourage a young person to speak with family members where possible, as it is recognised that if a young person receives the right support, then it can be a positive, affirming experience for both the child and their family.

As a supplementary question, Councillor McLean asked about risk to North Ayrshire Council should they implement the guidance of LGBT Youth Scotland?

Councillor Macaulay responded and advised he would not comment on speculation and that the original question related to collecting data which had been asked and answered.

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

To ask the Cabinet Member to publish the Equality Impact Assessments carried out in respect of each individual school crossing patroller that will be removed as part of the Council's 2025/26 budget?

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

As part of the budget process a full Equality and Children's Rights Impact Assessment was carried out and published ahead of the budget meeting.

In addition, individual assessments were carried out for all 50 of the current school crossing locations. These are not easily accessible to non-specialists, so we are developing simplified summaries which we will share to ensure full transparency.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Bell asked who made the assessments when they were taken and what consultation took place with pupils, parents and carers and childcare providers. He commented on the importance of having the information publicly available.

The Chief Executive clarified that the decision had already been taken by Council and that the individual risk assessments were the traffic management studies which were undertaken at each site.

Councillor Macaulay responded and advised that the assessments will be shared with Members and that the Council will actively engage with schools and communities to promote road safety.

(11) a question by Councillor Inglis to the Cabinet Member for Communities, Housing and the Islands in the following terms:

To ask the cabinet member if the council should follow the Scottish government and use the money in the SHIPs net-zero fund to build more houses instead of putting in expensive heating systems?

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

The Heat in Buildings Bill is still being developed by the Scottish Government and revised proposals are anticipated in due course.

In addition, as part of the decarbonisation approach to social housing, a new Scottish Housing Net Zero Standard (SHNZS) is currently under consideration nationally and will replace the previous Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing.

Compliance with the new standard is expected to be mandated and then monitored by the Scottish Housing Regulator.

Enhancing the quality of our existing Council housing to improve its energy efficiency contributes to our Council Plan priorities by helping alleviate fuel poverty and reducing the risk of dampness and mould by ensuring our homes are affordable to heat, reducing carbon emissions, and increasing thermal comfort which can prevent and/or alleviate respiratory and other health conditions.

For all of these reasons, it is important that we take a balanced and proportionate approach that includes investment in energy efficiency improvements to our existing housing stock alongside the implementation of the Council's housebuilding programme, as was approved as part of the HRA budget setting report to full Council on 12th February 2025.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Inglis asked the Cabinet Member if it was justifiable for the Council to choose to fit expensive systems over building more homes given the high numbers on the waiting list and the high number of residents still in temporary accommodation.

Councillor Hill responded and referred to the £185m allocation in the 30 year HRA business plan to make energy efficiency improvements across the existing stock. Capital plans include £105m for heating replacement although this is largely based on gas. Initial estimates for replacing the gas systems with, for example, air source heat pumps would cost in the region of £370m which is not currently budgeted for. Therefore, in order to prepare for the new standards, the Council has committed £500k to undertake a pathfinder project to look at what will be required to bring our

housing stock up to the standards as are about to be set by the Scottish Government.

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

What is the total cost budgeted in the 2025/26 budget for: a) teachers' pay awards? b) non-teaching NAC staff pay awards?, c) Chief Officer pay awards? d) Cabinet members pay uplifts(not including leader of the council)?, e) leader of the council pay uplifts?, f) Committee chair pay uplifts?, g) all other councillor pay uplifts (including leader of the opposition)?, h) The collective cost of all of the above?

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

The budget planning assumption for 2025/26 in respect of staff pay is that the Council would fund up to 3% of any agreed increase. The approved Council budget included the sum of £7.115million which covers all assumed staff and elected member increases. The breakdown is as follows:-

- a) teachers' pay awards – £3.445m
- b) non-teaching NAC staff pay awards - £3.416m
- c) SLT pay awards - £0.059m

The total anticipated cost increase in staff pay is £6.920m. This figure does not include any increases in respect of the Health and Social Care Partnership. This cost is estimated at £2.727m and was included in the Budget report presented to the Integration Joint Board on the 20th March 2025.

The approach to elected members pay has been different this year as a result of the recommendations set out in the Scottish Local Authorities Remuneration Committee (SLARC) Review. The review recommended that:

- the role of councillors be treated as a public office in the same way as MSPs and MPs
- Councillors be paid a salary of 80% of the median salary for all public sector employees in Scotland - £25,982
- In respect of senior councillors holding specific responsibilities, there should be 3 bands based mainly on size. The salary of the Leader of the largest councils, Glasgow and Edinburgh, should be benchmarked at the salary of a MSP – Band D - £71,519, medium size councils - Band C - £60,791 and smaller councils - Band B, including North Ayrshire, £50,063
- Salaries of civic heads and senior councillors should be set locally but up to a maximum of 75% of the salary of the Council Leader

The total cost of this uplift is £0.195m and has been funded by the Scottish Government as part of the 25/26 budget settlement.

As a supplementary question, Councillor McLean referred to a number of issues including the cost-of-living crisis, low growth, including low private sector wage

growth, increases in energy costs, the impact of inflation and the Council tax increase and asked if it was moral to have implemented the rise in salaries.

Councillor Larsen responded and advised this was funded by the Scottish Government, that everyone is entitled to a pay rise, and that the independent review, which was subject to extensive consultation, looked at the appropriate rate for jobs. Councillor Larsen noted as this came from the Scottish Government review it does not have any bearing on Council finances.

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

Can the Leader of the Council, as co-chair of the Ardrossan Harbour Task Force, update Council on when the next meeting of the Task Force will be held?

The Leader of the Council thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:

The Ardrossan Task Force is expected to re-convene soon. We are currently looking to schedule this in April 2025. A date will be shared with Task Force members following confirmation with Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Transport as co-chair.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Currie asked as co-chair of the Ardrossan Task Force and in light of the urgency of the reinstatement of Ardrossan Harbour as the mainland port for Arran for the economies of Arran and the Three Towns, what powers the Leader of the Council has to call, or influence the calling of meetings of the Task Force to move the vital project forward.

The Leader of the Council responded and advised that she understood the Member's frustration and that as co-chair, any meetings of the Task Force must be agreed between both Chairs. The Leader noted that the Scottish Government is in the process of negotiating with Peel Ports to take ownership of the Harbour which is something that this Council had asked for in the past therefore she is hopeful that there will be useful discussions at a future meeting of the Task Force.

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

To ask the cabinet member for education if there have been any inappropriate incidents reported relating to the use of gender-neutral toilets in our schools?

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

We do not systematically record or collect data on the number of such incidents. However, we can confirm that there have not been any formal complaints to date in this academic year relating to incidents in gender neutral toilets.

As a supplementary question, Councillor T Ferguson welcomed that there hadn't been any formal complaints, drew attention to incidents which have taken place in other authorities and asked that the Cabinet Member ensured Members have full

visibility of the Council's response to the upcoming Scottish Government consultation on single-sex spaces within the school provision prior to submission.

Councillor Macaulay responded and advised that it is routine that any consultation responses be taken to Cabinet for consideration prior to submission for which the papers are published publicly. Councillor Macaulay also noted that although he was unable to comment on incidents which have taken place in other authorities, to his knowledge, in North Ayrshire there had been no substantial issues with either the physical infrastructure or the day to day management of school toilets which would give rise to concern that the Council is not meeting its obligations under the Equality Act 2010, infringing on anyone's rights or that pupils are going to school in an unsafe environment. Councillor Macaulay encouraged any Member who has concerns about this to raise it with himself and the relevant Council Officer directly.

11. Motions

In terms of Standing Order 15, submitted:

- (1) a motion by Councillor McLean, seconded by Councillor S Ferguson, in the following terms:

"Council agrees:

(1) to implement a policy that with it will not introduce car parking charges in any car park that it owns, controls or manages subject to the existing arrangements for car park charging in Largs remaining in place. It will also not introduce on-street parking charges. In the event that the Council operates the car park at Ardrossan Harbour as part of a future operating model, car park charging by the Council for the car park at the ferry terminal will also be permitted should that be required as part of any business case for Council funding of the redevelopment of Ardrossan Harbour in conjunction with partners. In addition, Council will not sell any car park that it owns or transfer the operation or management of any car park to any person or organisation which intends to charge for car parking with any contract for the sale or operation being subject to the continued requirement of free car parking; and

- (2) to receive a report to a future meeting of the Council on the feasibility of augmenting this policy through the formation of a byelaw on free parking."

The Monitoring Officer clarified that in terms of the motion which concerned charging in car parks, the electric vehicle charging points which may be situated within those car parks would not be affected as there are already contracts let in that regard, therefore the motion would not apply to of electric charging points.

Members asked questions and received clarification from the mover of the motion on:

- the length of time it takes to create a byelaw and the overall cost of this process;
- part one of the motion and whether this was enforceable should the carpark be sold to a third party;

- whether there was any precedent for a Council introducing a byelaw against itself; and
- the length of time it takes to revoke a byelaw.

As an amendment Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Bell, proposed the following:

“Council instructs officers not to bring forward a proposal to introduce town centre parking charges for the remainder of the Council term.”

Members asked questions of clarification of the mover of the amendment and received further information in relation to:

- whether Officers could bring forward proposals or if this was reserved for Councillors only;
- the difference between a proposal and options presented to Council with a recommendation;
- whether passing the amendment would preclude Members from asking for information for the remainder of the Council’s term; and
- whether there were any other policies implemented which would only operate for the duration of the Council term;

As a further amendment, Councillor Gurney, seconded by Councillor Collier moved the direct negative.

In terms of Standing Order 6.8, the Provost agreed that the meeting be adjourned at 3.21 p.m. for a short comfort break to consider the motion and amendment, reconvening at 3.34 p.m. with the same Members and Officers present.

In terms of Standing Order 15.1, Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Bell proposed the following updated amendment:

That Council does not introduce further town centre car parking charges for the remainder of the Council term. The position on parking charges in Largs and the Ardrossan Harbour business case will remain.

A Member asked a question of clarification and received further information on whether the amendment related to on-street car parking as well as Council owned carparks.

There followed summing up.

On a division and a roll call vote, there voted for the amendment (direct negative), Councillors Burns, Collier, Davidson, Dickson, Gurney, Hill, Johnson, Larsen, Macaulay, McClung, McTiernan and Robertson (12), for the motion, Councillors S Ferguson, T Ferguson, Gallacher, Inglis, McLean, Stalker and Stephen (7), with Councillors Angus-McDonald, Bell, Cullinane, Currie, Foster, Montgomerie, D. Reid, D.L. Reid and Sweeney (9) abstaining. The amendment was declared carried.

Councillor Cullinane sought clarification on whether the amendment became the substantive motion and subject to vote against the proposed Labour amendment.

The Monitoring Officer confirmed that in terms of Standing Orders, the direct negative having been approved by Council negated any other amendment.

The meeting ended at 3:45 p.m.



PROVOST'S REPORT

For the period covering: 17 March – 4 May 2025

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



PROVOST'S REPORT

For the period covering: 17 March – 4 May 2025

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

Provost's Visit, Cranberry Moss Art Group, Cranberry Moss Community Centre, Kilwinning, 18 March

On 18 March, I visited Cranberry Moss Art Group in Kilwinning. This group have been running for approximately three months, and now many of the members have started painting at home to further their learning. It is hoped that an exhibition can be arranged at a later date to display the artworks and individual achievements. It was good to get an insight into some of the activities that are delivered in our local communities.

Provost's Visit, Take Time Families, Kilwinning Library, 19 March

On 19 March, I visited the Take Time Families project at Kilwinning library. This group provides support to families focusing on mental health and wellbeing. Members of the group are encouraged to build toolkits that support positive wellbeing outcomes for the whole family, and it was a good to chat with the parents and young people who enjoy the guided and mutual support.

Cyber Explorers Conference, Ardeer Youth and Community Centre, Stevenston, 21 March

On 21 March, I was delighted to welcome everyone to the first Cyber Explorers Conference in North Ayrshire. Cyber Explorers and the CyberFirst programme, inspire and encourage young people to learn about how they can boost their cyber skills, and it is fantastic to see such rich engagement and enthusiasm for computing science in our schools and communities. Those who have taken part are energised and most importantly knowledgeable of the cyber landscape, not only the dangers it poses but also the wealth of opportunities it can bring.

PROVOST'S REPORT

***Young Enterprise Scotland, Ayrshire Regional Finals, UWS Ayr Campus, 21 March***

On 21 March, I attended the Young Enterprise Scotland, Ayrshire Regional Finals in Ayr. There was plenty of evidence of creative talent and entrepreneurialism on show. Congratulations to Garnock Campus' Young Enterprise team, Valmoss, for winning the Sustainability Award.

Provost's Visit, Kilwinning Transition, Kilwinning Academy, 27 March

I was in Kilwinning Academy on 27 March to visit the transition group, Primary 7 young people across the Kilwinning locality cluster schools come along in preparation for their move to the Academy in August. The group navigate the changes between primary school to secondary school with various activities and programmes to ensure young people feel as comfortable as possible with the move.

CLD Celebration Event, Civic Centre, Ardrossan, 27 March

On the evening of 27 March, I welcomed everyone to the Community Learning and Development, Celebration Event in Ardrossan Civic Centre. During the evening, we heard more about the fantastic work carried out by the CLD Team – whether through youth work, adult learning, or volunteering in the community. We also had the honour of presenting three awards. The first two were named in the memory of two incredibly special individuals, Shirley Morgan and Alex Pettigrew, who made a profound impact on our communities. The third was a special recognition award, celebrating outstanding dedication and service.

HMS Dasher Memorial Service, Ardrossan, 30 March

On 30 March, the Depute Provost attended the HMS Dasher Memorial Service in Ardrossan. The event, which was arranged the Saltcoats, Ardrossan and Stevenston Branch of the British Legion, started with a parade and was followed by a wreath-laying service. The HMS Dasher sank, off the coast of Ardrossan, in 1943 with the loss of 379 lives.

Creative Arts Showcase, Irvine Royal Academy, 31 March

On 31 March, I attended the "Believe in Better" creative arts showcase at Irvine Royal Academy. This was a celebration of the SQA work produced by the senior pupils in art, photography, music and music technology.

PROVOST'S REPORT

***Duke of Edinburgh Awards Presentation Evening, St Matthew's Academy, Saltcoats, 2 April***

On 2 April, I was in St Matthew's Academy in Saltcoats for the North Ayrshire Duke of Edinburgh Awards presentation evening. The event showcased the commitment, dedication and resilience of the participants. I was extremely delighted to present the gold awards on the evening to the worthy recipients.

North Ayrshire Schools' Flagship Concert, Garnock Community Campus, Glengarnock, 3 April

I attended North Ayrshire Schools' Flagship Concert in Garnock Community Campus, on 3 April. As always, the event was an overwhelming success and featured the senior and training concert bands, junior and senior orchestras, the chamber string group and special guests. I am always inspired by the incredible talents of our young people in our schools across North Ayrshire.

Garnock Valley Men's Shed Re-Launch, Kilbirnie, 12 April

On 12 April, I attended the re-launch of the Garnock Valley Men's Shed in Kilbirnie. This initiative has given men a place in which to work, share their skills and to inspire others. The membership has grown so much so that the group have assisted in setting up, another Men's Shed in Dalry and supported the establishment of a further five Men's Sheds in North Ayrshire. The dedication of these men is inspiring and is a legacy for the former chair, who recently passed away.

Arran CVS 60th Anniversary Celebration, Arran, 26 April

On 26 April, the Depute Provost attended Arran CVS 60th Anniversary celebration in Arran High School. The event offered residents the opportunity to connect with a wide range of community groups, explore volunteering opportunities, and learn more about local services. Approximately 300 community members attended, making the day a success in raising the profile of volunteering, gathering public feedback, and highlighting the vital contributions of community groups to the wellbeing of Arran's residents.

John Galt Day, Irvine, 2 May

On 2 May, Irvine Burns Club recognised the birth of John Galt in Irvine on 2nd May 1779. Galt became the Club's first Honorary Member in 1828, and the Club is a member of the John Galt Society. I was delighted to attend this ceremony which took place at Galt's birthplace at 167 High Street, Irvine.

PROVOST'S REPORT



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anthea Dickson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Councillor Anthea Dickson
Provost North Ayrshire Council



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

LEADER'S REPORT

For the period covering: 17 March – 4 May 2025

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

LEADER'S REPORT



LEADER'S REPORT

For the period covering: 17 March – 4 May 2025

BROOMLANDS AND BOURTREEHILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (BABCA), 17 March

On 17 March, I visited Towerlands Community Centre and met with members of Broomlands and Bourtreehill Community Association (BABCA).

BABCA received £12,777 Community Investment funding (CIF) in January 2024 for their community garden project and I look forward to seeing the community garden upon completion.

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT PLACE AND WELLBEING BOARD MEETING, 18 March

On 18 March, I attended another meeting of the Scottish Government Place and Wellbeing Board. The Programme Board provides direction, oversight and a decision-making authority for the delivery of the Place and Wellbeing Programme as well as reporting to the Care and Wellbeing Portfolio Board.

Attendees received various updates including an Anchors Workforce Progress report, a Communications Strategy update and an update on the Population Health Framework. The Scottish Government, Public Health Scotland and NHS Scotland are working together to harness the power of NHS Anchor institutions to create fair work opportunities to build prosperity in our communities. The Anchors Workforce Strategic Group is leading work to deliver the Anchor Workforce objective – “To empower NHS Boards to provide fair work opportunities to those at most risk of economic disadvantage to support the reduction of health inequalities.”

The Board will meet again on 17 June.

SAVE ARDROSSAN HARBOUR COMMITTEE MEETING, 18 March

Also on 18 March, together with North Ayrshire Council Chief Executive, Craig Hatton, I met with several members of the “Save Ardrrossan Harbour Committee”. This followed a request by the Group’s secretary, Matthew McGowan to meet with them. The Group wanted to ensure

LEADER'S REPORT



that their views and concerns be conveyed through existing Ardrossan Task Force (ATF) members at the next ATF scheduled for April.

NHS AYRSHIRE AND ARRAN AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE, 20 March

On 20 March, I attended an NHS Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) meeting where attendees discussed various Internal and External Audit papers. The Committee also received a Counter Fraud Update report.

The Committee also reviewed and approved the ARC Workplan for the year ahead.

NHS AYRSHIRE AND ARRAN ENDOWMENT TRUSTEES MEETING, 25 March

On 25 March, I attended a meeting of the NHS Ayrshire and Arran Endowment Trustees. The Committee discussed and approved the Budget Proposals for 2025/26. Trustees also received various updated valuation reports as part of the Investment Portfolio.

VISIT TO MARRESS HOUSE, 25 March

Later on 25 March, I was delighted to be asked to take part in the official opening of the recently completed Early Years Centre at Marress House in Irvine. Together with North Ayrshire Council Depute Leader, Shaun Macaulay, Irvine South Councillor, Christina Larsen and North Ayrshire Council Director of Education, Sam Anson, I took part in a guided tour of the facility and had an opportunity to see first-hand the wonderful areas that the children enjoy and thrive in.

Marress House refurbishment work was completed in August 2024 and will also be home to the Council's Public CCTV and Concierge Service in a separate part of the building. It also has a training suite, which will be used to enhance the skillset of the Early Years workforce across the authority.

I would like to thank the Head of Centre, Deborah Gott and her team, for taking the time out to host us, but more importantly for the invaluable work they do daily to ensure the children learn and engage in activities that will help them develop into confident individuals, supporting educational attainment and enhanced social and emotional development.

LEADER'S REPORT



COMMUNITY AND LEARNING DEVELOPMENT VOLUNTEER AWARDS, 27 March

On 27 March, I attended a very emotional and poignant Community and Learning Development Awards ceremony held at the Ardrossan Civic Centre. The evening celebrated volunteers who are doing some incredible work in our communities. I had the honour of presenting the Shirley Morgan Award.

Shirley Morgan was a passionate and committed Community Worker who lived and worked in North Ayrshire all her life. She was active in making a difference and improving communities across North Ayrshire until her untimely death in 2022. Throughout her life she inspired and encouraged others to do same. The 'Shirely Morgan Award' has been created to commemorate and recognise that same passion and commitment from adults in our communities today.

I would like to thank all the volunteers in North Ayrshire who give up their time freely to help others and do so, with great passion and enthusiasm and of course, our Community, Learning and Development team here in North Ayrshire Council for all their continued work and support.

COSLA MINI CONFERENCE AND CONVENTION, 28 March

On 28 March, I attended COSLA Mini-Conference and Convention. At Convention, COSLA Leaders held useful discussion on a range of subjects including the following:

- COSLA Plan Annual Report
- Verity House Agreement
- General Power of Competence for Local Government – Consultation response
- Support for Ukraine
- Preparing for and responding to threats to community cohesion
- COSLA Budget 2025/26 and Membership subscription

One of the excellent and informative speakers at the Mini Conference was Katie Kelly, previously Deputy Chief Executive at East Ayrshire Council but who is now Chair of New Local, an independent think tank and network of councils with a mission to transform public services and unlock community power.

NHS AYRSHIRE AND ARRAN BOARD MEETING, 31 March

On 31 March, I attended an NHS Ayrshire and Arran Board meeting where attendees received updates on various Patient Safety Reports. The Board also received and discussed reports

LEADER'S REPORT



relating to Performance Governance, Healthcare Governance and Board Governance, including a report on the Climate Emergency and sustainability annual report for 2023-24. Board members also approved the NHS A&A Revenue Plan for 2025-26 and the Minutes from Integration Joint Board meetings held for East, South and North Ayrshire Councils in December 2024

COSLA SPECIAL LEADERS' MEETING, 31 March

Also on 31 March, I attended a special meeting of COSLA Leaders' following to discuss the National Care Service Advisory Board.

Work on the establishment of the National Care Service Advisory Board is underway on the basis that the Board can advise Ministers as well as Leaders, Health Board and Integration Authorities. There is disagreement on the scope of the Board, particularly regarding its relationship with children's services, justice social work services and homelessness services. Leaders previously agreed in February that a joint approach was required and that this should include agreement that the above services would not be overseen by the Board to avoid any unnecessary confusion and duplication of leadership.

JOINT YOUTH CABINET, 1 April

On 1 April, I was delighted to take part in the Joint Youth Cabinet held at Saltcoats Town Hall. Together with Cabinet members and senior officers from North Ayrshire Council, we were able to engage with young people from various localities in North Ayrshire, including the Youth Council Executive and Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament.

Joint Cabinet is a vital part of the Council's Youth Participation Strategy, it allows young people to learn more about how their local authority operates while, at the same time, share their views on a range of subjects. Discussions focused on:

- Equalities in Health
- Community Wealth Building
- UNCRC
- Positive Relationships
- Cyber Resilience

Thank you to all the young people who took part from a range of schools throughout North Ayrshire and a big thank you to our MSYPs, Adam Johnson, Rhyan Gorrie, Freya Fitzsimmons and Emma Burns for attending the meeting as Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament.

LEADER'S REPORT

***DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD CEREMONY, 2 April***

On 2 April, I was delighted to attend the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Awards ceremony held at St Matthew's Secondary school in Saltcoats. It was another wonderful evening with more young people having taken part this past year than in previous years. Currently we have nine secondary schools and six youth and community groups involved in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in North Ayrshire all of whom are involved in doing some fantastic activities and giving up their own free time to volunteer at various organisations.

It is wonderful to hear about the varied programme of activities that the young people undertake which build confidence, skills, resilience, physical fitness and prepare them for life and work as they enter the next chapter of their lives.

I would like to congratulate all the young people who took part in the DofE and of course, I would like to thank all the teachers, parents, guardians, carers and DofE staff who do an incredible job of supporting the young people at every stage. Congratulations to you all.

OLDER PEOPLE'S CHAMPION NETWORK MEETING, 4 April

On 4 April, in my role as Older People's Champion for North Ayrshire, I joined a meeting of the Older People's Champion Network organised by Age Scotland. As Leader of North Ayrshire Council and Older People's Champion, it is crucial that the voice of our elderly communities is heard at all levels of decision making within the Council. That is why North Ayrshire Council has in place its Older Peoples Voice Participation Strategy, made up the Older People's Voice Network, Executive Older People's Council and the Conference – is in place to help support older people.

VISIT TO RADIO CITY ASSOCIATION, 11 April

On 11 April, I visited the new community café set up by Radio City Association (RCA) in Kilbirnie. The recently completed café has been part of the Association's regeneration phase of the Knox Institute building.

RCA is a community organisation and a registered charity, with the overall objective of developing the social, environmental and economic prospects of the Garnock Valley via it's 'Electric Valley' Project. They describe their vision as to establish Radio City's Electric Valley to develop a vibrant community of partnership, growing opportunities for lifestyle change across health, learning and employability to enable inclusive economic growth and sustainability.

LEADER'S REPORT



The Electric Valley concept, has seven areas of focus, targets strategic investment funds to foster inclusive economic growth and address local inequalities in health, wealth, and education.

My thanks to the Association for inviting me along and for sharing some of their ideas for the future.

ARDROSSAN TASK FORCE MEETING, 17 April

On 17 April, I travelled to Arran to co-chair a meeting of the Ardrossan Task Force (ATF) together with the Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Fiona Hyslop MSP. The meeting was held at the Auchrannie and was well attended by various stakeholders. Negotiations are well underway and continue to progress between Peel Ports and the Scottish Government on the purchase of Ardrossan Harbour.

All parties agree on the need for the ferry to remain at Ardrossan and for the negotiations to be concluded as soon as possible.

MEETING WITH ENABLE SCOTLAND, 22 April

On 22 April, together with North Ayrshire Council's Director of Education, Sam Anson and North Ayrshire Council's Director of the Health and Social Care Partnership, Caroline Cameron, I attended a meeting in Cunninghame House with Jamie Cooke, Head of Policy at Enable Scotland, one of Scotland's largest social care charities.

The meeting was to share information about North Ayrshire Council's pioneering role in driving forward the Collaboration for Health Equity work. Jamie is familiar with some of the other pioneering work that North Ayrshire Council has been involved in including work around the Basic Income pilot and Community Wealth Building (CWB).

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL CORPORATE PARENTING TEAM, EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS EVENT FOR CARE EXPERIENCED PEOPLE, 23 April

On 23 April, I went along to the Irvine Volunteer Rooms and visited the first ever Employment and Skills event for Care Experienced people which was hosted by North Ayrshire Council Corporate Parenting Team. The event had useful information for parents, carers, extended family members and Corporate Parents on a range of issues including:

LEADER'S REPORT



- Entitlements
- General rights
- Services and supports available throughout North Ayrshire to enhance employability and skills

The event will be included in The Promise's upcoming Halfway to 2030 highlights and I am delighted to hear that various organisations were represented at the event including Skills Development Scotland, Equal, Community ESOL Team, Locality Teams, Money Matters, Welfare Rights Officers, the Local Employability Partnership, Developing the Young Workforce, Modern Apprenticeships Team, Kando, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, Active Schools, Ayrshire College, MCR Pathways and CEIS Ayrshire.

Thank you to everyone involved in organising this informative event.

PAN AYRSHIRE MEETING WITH AYRSHIRE COLLEGE, 24 April

On 24 April, together with Council Leaders from South and East Ayrshire Councils, I attended a meeting at Ayrshire College, Ayr Campus to discuss the Ayrshire Regional economy and the possibility of a reduction in funding by the Scottish Funding Council which could impact Ayrshire College and future delivery of courses.

It was agreed that this would be considered further by a future meeting of the Ayrshire Economic Partnership Board and an approach agreed on how best to tackle this.

AYRSHIRE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING, 24 April

Later on 24 April, I attended a meeting of the Ayrshire Economic Partnership Board where attendees were updated on the Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) Regional Economic Strategy including the draft implementation plan for 2025-26. Attendees were also provided with an update on the AGD Programme Risk Register and an update on AGD Governance. progress report on one of the projects from the AGD, the Ayrshire Innovation Park.

COSLA LEADERS', 25 April

On 25 April, I attended a meeting of COSLA Leaders to discuss a packed agenda including the following items:

- National Care Service/Social Care Reform
- National Social Work Agency
- Reduction in Class Contact Time

LEADER'S REPORT



- Presentation from Scotland Excel
- Scottish Social Work Partnership – Memorandum of Understanding
- Pay Claims
- Verity House Agreement
- Barriers to Elected Office – Councillor Safety and Civility in Public Life

Leaders were asked to agree to sign up to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that has been drafted to support the development of the Scottish Social Work Partnership (SSWP). At a high level, the MoU is between Scottish Government (Office of the Chief Social Work Advisor), COSLA and Social Work Scotland and sets out the parameters of the partnership to enhance the Social Work profession through shared accountability and coordinated efforts. The partnership will focus on enhancing professional leadership, education, workforce planning, and policy implementation.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marie Burns".

Councillor Marie Burns
Leader of North Ayrshire Council

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

14 May 2025

Council

Title: **North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board: Minutes of Meeting held in March 2025**

Purpose: To submit the overview of the meeting of the North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership Board held on 10 March 2025.

Recommendation: That Council notes the overview 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. They are also uploaded to the Community Planning website at www.northayrshire.community. 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 An overview of the meeting of the CPP Board held on 10 March 2025 is appended. This meeting focused on the CPP focuses of Child Poverty and Wellbeing. Matters for the Council's attention include the following:

Meeting of 10 March 2025

Agenda Item 3

CPP partners participated in a facilitated session with the Fairer Futures team. This included an overview of the aims and plans of the team to work collaboratively with partners to reduce child poverty through progressive service reform and a needs-based approach. The team aim to adopt a holistic approach, building on the Single Shared Assessment work being undertaken by the Council's Transformation Team, also further embed the No Wrong Door model, and testing place-based changes in collaboration with partners. They also aim to support work on whole-family wellbeing.

Agenda Item 4

CPP Partners were provided with an update on the North Ayrshire Wellbeing Alliance. This included an update on progress, the development of the Charter and overviews of the Garnock Valley Taskforce and a pilot taking place jointly with the Local Employability Partnership (LEP) in Blacklands, Kilwinning. The pilot focuses

on creating opportunities for wellbeing, volunteering, skills development, and employment. It involves 28 partners working together to deliver impactful outcomes.

Agenda Item 5

The CPP Board received an update on the ongoing review of Locality Planning in North Ayrshire. This included an overview of the key tasks undertaken so far around engaging with members of Locality Planning Partnerships and the development of initial recommendations. These are focused around the high level themes of the team around the partnership, re-energising the room, and focusing on the locality plan.

Agenda Item 6

Finally, the CPP Board received an update on the North Ayrshire's Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland (CHES) launch event took place on 25 February 2025 at Saltcoats Town Hall. Over 70 attendees were in attendance to mark the beginning of this innovative partnership including Professor Sir Michael Marmot. The initiative aims to improve health outcomes by applying the eight Marmot principles to enhance living conditions across all life stages. The launch event included a tabletop activity, with outputs which were included within the report circulated to the Board in advance of the meeting.

3. Proposals

3.1 That the Council notes the workshop overview 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.

David W. Hammond
Executive Director
(Communities and Housing)

For further information please contact **Jacqui Greenlees, Senior Manager (Policy, Performance and Community Planning)**, on **01294 324415**.

Background Papers

Appendix: 1 CPP Board Minutes, 10 March 2025

Community Planning Partnership Board

10 March 2025 2.00 pm

Fullarton ConneXions, Irvine



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

Present

North Ayrshire Council

Cllr Marie Burns, Elected Member (**Chair**)

Cllr John Bell, Elected Member

Cllr Scott Davidson, Elected Member

Cllr Margaret Johnson, Elected Member

Craig Hatton, Chief Executive

David Hammond, Executive Director

Rhonda Leith, Head of Service

Ayrshire College

Angela Cox, Principal and Chief Executive

Department of Work and Pensions

Pauline Craig, Regional Lead

NHS Ayrshire and Arran

Lisa Davidson, Assistant Director (Public Health)

KA Leisure

Malcolm McPhail, Chief Executive

Police Scotland

Supt Graeme Gallie

Scottish Fire & Rescue Service

Steven Campbell, Station Manager

Scottish Partnership for Transport

Allan Comrie, Senior Transport Planner

Scottish Government

Eleanor Passmore, Location Director

In Attendance

Jacqui Greenlees (NAC), Jennifer McGee (NAC), Laura Barrie (KA Leisure), Scott Morrison (KA Leisure), Stewart Robbie (NAC), Jenni Blair (NAC), Laura Kayes (NAC)

Apologies

Sam Anson (NAC), Vicki Yuill (Arran CVS), Caroline Cameron, (NAHSCP), Cllr Shaun Macaulay (NAC), Cllr Charles Currie (NAC), Cllr Amanda Kerr (NAC), Cllr Alan Hill (NAC), Kaileigh Brown (TSI), Cllr Charles Currie (NAC), Claire Burden (NHS Ayrshire & Arran), Dean Anderson (DWP) Ian McMeekin (SFRS), Eleanor Passmore (Scottish Government)

1. Welcome and Apologies

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

2. Minute of the Previous Meeting

The overview of the Board meeting held on 5 December were approved subject to one amendment. Cllr Bell noted as in attendance and on list of apologies. Cllr Bell was in attendance. CPP Team undertook to amend this.

Action: CPP Team

3. Fairer Futures: Child Poverty and Cost of Living

Jenni Blair and Laura Kayes provided the Board with an overview of the work undertaken to date by the Council's new Child Poverty Strategy Team. The Team has been in place since January 2025, and they have been conducting a scoping exercise to guide their initiatives.

The aim of the team is to work collaboratively with partners to reduce child poverty through progressive service reform and a needs-based approach. Their focus is on six priority family groups:

- Lone parent families
- Families with a disabled adult or child
- Larger families (three or more children)
- Minority ethnic families
- Families with a child under one year old
- Families where the mother is under 25 years of age

The team aim to adopt a holistic approach, building on the Single Shared Assessment work being undertaken by the Council's Transformation Team, also further embed the No Wrong Door model, and testing place-based changes in collaboration with partners. They also support work on whole-family wellbeing.

L Kayes highlighted that there is a lot of data available. The drivers are categorised into three main areas:

- Income through employment
- Cost of living and;
- Income through social security.

It was highlighted that the current support systems are often reactive, focusing on short-term fixes. To enhance existing measures, efforts should aim to complement support already in place by fostering empowerment and sustainability. This approach should shift from "talking poverty" to actively mitigating or reducing it, drawing on research from Glasgow Caledonian University.

Key challenges include:

- Complex Access Points: There are currently 18 points of contact for accessing various support services, which involve complicated language. Streamlining this system into a model similar to No Wrong Door could reduce these access points and improve user experience.

- **Accountability Through Language:** Using shared and clear language enhances accountability and communication across stakeholders.

The Council's Transformation Team are also working on several initiatives to address child poverty. They are monitoring referral processes and creating a poverty dashboard using the Single Shared Assessment to guide Place-Based Tests of Change. The CACI portal will enhance data access, and tangible outcomes that are emerging. Celcis, a learning partner will be providing third-party verification.

The team are also looking to appoint a grants partner for the Place Base Test of Change work. Plans are also underway to engage communities through local roadshows.

The Team also attended the P7 Youth Council recently where over 100 students were in attendance. The most common responses from young people were around food insecurity and stigma concerns, emphasising the need for community-focused solutions to reduce poverty stigma and improve support delivery.

The Team highlighted the consultation being undertaken by the Scottish Government on their Child Poverty Action Plan. It I hoped a CPP/NAC response can be submitted to the consultation. To prepare for this the team has circulated a MS Forms to CPP Partners. Board member then split into two groups and discussion took place on the consultation response themes received so far.

The team thanked the Board for their feedback and advised that this would be included in the response being shared at Cabinet Pre-agenda tomorrow.

The Chair conveyed her thanks to the team for their input.

4. North Ayrshire Wellbeing Alliance

Malcolm McPhail, Laura Barrie and Scott Morrison provided the Board with an update on the work of the North Ayrshire Wellbeing Alliance.

M McPhail highlighted that North Ayrshire is taking a unique approach by prioritising wellbeing as a central focus of its initiatives. Supported by many partners across the CPP, the Alliance has successfully launched its taskforce. The Alliance has developed robust infrastructure for engagement, including wellbeing hubs that extend far beyond sports to encompass broader community needs.

Although the Alliance's purpose and Terms of Reference are complex, the creation of a charter has been pivotal in building momentum. Its communication efforts operate on an industrial scale. A recent workshop brought together 80 agencies and over 500 smaller contacts, providing North Ayrshire Council with a large piece of research data.

The Alliance aims to be ahead of the curve, aligning its delivery with Marmot theories, which focus on reducing health inequalities and improving life quality. It has adopted an appreciative inquiry strategy, designing a framework that leverages its strengths to drive impactful change.

L Barrie shared two documents with the Board. The first contained statistics from when the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan was produced, outlines the principles of the Alliance, and its establishment and highlights how North Ayrshire are doing things differently. The second captured all events and focus groups of the Alliance over the past couple of years.

It also demonstrates the Alliance's commitment to engagement and co-design with partners and the community.

S Morrison highlighted the work of the Garnock Valley Taskforce which was established in response to a trend in youth disorder across the Garnock Valley area. The Task Force implemented several initiatives, including:

- Providing gym memberships to young people, along with education on proper gym use
- Collaborating with youth services and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to deliver an 8-week course for 8 young people
- Partnering with Café Solace to teach cooking skills
- Linking in with the 'lend and mend' library

Feedback from young people and schools involved in the initiative has been very positive and young people previously disengaged at school are now more engaged.

L Barrie highlighted the pilot taking place jointly with the Local Employability Partnership (LEP) in Blacklands, Kilwinning. The pilot focuses on creating opportunities for wellbeing, volunteering, skills development, and employment. It involves 28 partners working together to deliver impactful outcomes. The pilot operates on multiple levels, including hosting family fun events in April to build relationships, conducting door-to-door enquiries, organising coffee mornings, and offering placements.

This holistic approach allows the team to focus on one locality and better understand the most effective ways to deliver support.

L Barrie advised that an update on the pilot would be brought to a future Board meeting.

Action: L Barrie

Councillor Bell inquired about quantifying the success of the Garnock Valley taskforce. M McPhail offered to share data. Councillor Bell suggested linking this with police data to demonstrate a holistic approach. It was agreed to add this would be added to the June Garnock Valley Locality Partnership meeting agenda

Action: J McGee

R Leith praised the project's development, noting how strategic-level input is translating into local delivery. She emphasised the importance of having clear objectives and understanding how partners can contribute. R Leith also highlighted the importance of feeding back to Locality Partnerships and exploring replication in other local areas.

The Chair conveyed her thanks to the team for their input.

• **Review of Locality Planning**

Jacqueline Greenlees provided the Board with an update on the review of Locality Planning that is currently taking place.

J Greenlees provided the Board with an update on the review of Locality Planning covering the following points:

- A survey conducted with Locality Partnerships
- Aims to develop a toolbox of good practice for Locality Partnerships
- A timeline for the review process
- High-level recommendations presented to the Council's Policy Advisory Panel and, next, to Cabinet
- 23 responses were received across all six LPs, with a large proportion from community members

Key feedback from this work focused on improving community voice, meeting formats, and support for those involved in Locality Partnerships. Thematic areas include strengthening HSCP links, enhancing recruitment and support for representatives, and creating a more dynamic and engaging environment in meetings. Other priorities include reducing updates during meetings, aligning with statutory requirements, and ensuring Locality Partnerships remain central to the agenda.

J Greenlees also highlighted that the review emphasises rebuilding the connection between Locality Partnerships and the CPP.

J Greenlees undertook to circulate the slides that were presented to the Council's Policy Advisory Panel last month for the Board's information.

Action: J Greenlees

- **CHES Launch**

Stewart Robbie advised the Board that North Ayrshire's Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland (CHES) launch event took place on 25 February 2025 at Saltcoats Town Hall. Over 70 attendees were in attendance to mark the beginning of this innovative partnership including Professor Sir Michael Marmot.

The initiative aims to improve health outcomes by applying the eight Marmot principles to enhance living conditions across all life stages. The launch event included a tabletop activity, with outputs which were included within the report circulated to the Board in advance of the meeting.

A local CHES steering group is being established with membership from a wide number of Partners. The first meeting will look at defining roles and responsibilities for each partner in delivering North Ayrshire's CHES work and examining local data mapped to Marmot priorities within localities to inform the CHES approach.

Governance for the CHES programme will be overseen by the Board and HSCP Integrated Joint Board. Significant decisions regarding the programme will be presented to both boards for approval.

The Chair conveyed her thanks to S Robbie for the update.

- **Partner Discussion and Sharing on Key Developments and Opportunities**

P Craig advised that the team are awaiting information on any changes taking place locally and will let the Board know when these have been confirmed.

- **AOCB**

No other business was discussed. The Chair conveyed her thank to everyone for their attendance.

The next meeting of the North Ayrshire CPP Board will be held on **5 June 2025 at 10.00am**

14 May 2025

Council

Title: Irvine: Plan for Neighbourhoods**Purpose:** To seek approval to submit an update to UK Government on the Irvine Neighbourhood Board and to provide an update on the refreshed 'Plan for Neighbourhoods' programme.**Recommendation:** That Council:

- a) Notes the update on the refreshed Plan for Neighbourhoods programme;
 - b) Approves the appointment of the Irvine Neighbourhood Board Chair and Vice Chair;
 - c) Approves the appointment of the three Elected Members to the Board as outlined at Appendix One;
 - d) Notes the membership and boundary of the Irvine Neighbourhood Board; and
 - e) Provides delegated authority to the Executive Director (Place) to prepare the required information for submission to UK Government in consultation with the Irvine Neighbourhood Board.
-

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 On 30 September 2023, the UK Government announced that 55 towns across the UK would benefit from up to £20 million of investment through endowment style funding over a 10-year period. Irvine was identified as one of originally seven towns in Scotland to benefit from this funding.
- 1.2 Cabinet approved the acceptance of the award, an interim governance structure and early commencement of work to develop a Long-Term Plan for the investment on 5 December 2023.
- 1.3 The UK Government provided an updated prospectus and programme for the re-named Plan for Neighbourhoods, in March 2025. This report provides an update on the refreshed programme and seeks approval to confirm the incumbent Chair alongside the proposed appointment of Elected Members.

2. Background

- 2.1 The UK Government's Long-Term Plan for Towns Prospectus was published on 1 October 2023. This identified 55 towns as beneficiaries of the fund with a further tranche of 20 towns announced in March 2024. The programme proposed to invest £1.5 billion into the 75 towns across the UK, of which now ten are within Scotland.

- 2.2 The ten Scottish towns are Irvine, Kilmarnock, Greenock, Coatbridge, Clydebank, Dumfries, Elgin, Peterhead, Arbroath and Kirkwall. Towns were selected using the Levelling Up Needs Index methodology. This considered metrics covering skills, pay, productivity and health alongside the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD), the City and Town Classifications of Constituencies and Local Authorities dataset.
- 2.3 On 5 December 2023, the Council's Cabinet approved the acceptance of the award, an interim governance structure and early commencement of work to develop the investment plan. Cabinet agreed that a sub-group of the Irvine Locality Partnership be formed including the representation outlined in the Prospectus as an interim governance structure. Updates were provided to the Irvine Locality Partnership on the Fund in January 2024, through which agreement was obtained to progress the governance approach and formation of the sub-group of the Locality Partnership.
- 2.4 The appointment of the membership of the Town Board, including the current Chair Bill Nolan, was undertaken in line with UK Government requirements and noted by Council in September 2024. This report also approved the appointment of three Elected Members to the Board to ensure appropriate representation.
- 2.5 Following the 2024 General Election, the programme was reconfirmed within the UK Government's 2024 Autumn Statement. An updated prospectus and guidance documentation were published in March 2025. The new 'Plan for Neighbourhoods' programme seeks to drive growth over the long-term and includes updated strategic objectives and a list of pre-approved interventions.
- 2.6 The updated programme requires a partnership approach between the local authority, the Neighbourhood Board and the community. It is the responsibility of the Board, in partnership with their Local Authority, to develop and deliver a ten-year vision for the town. There is also a requirement for a more detailed four-year investment plan which will inform the delivery of the programme from 2026 onwards. The Plans must be approved by UK Government prior to implementation, these can be submitted any time from Spring to Winter 2025. Additional guidance is to be issued around the format of the Regeneration Plans.
- 2.7 The Prospectus requires confirmation to UK Government of the following information:
- Confirmation of whether Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has signed off a previously agreed Board and boundary.
 - The Board chair and member details.
 - A nominated contact for the place's Neighbourhood Board.
 - Confirmation of the proposed geographical boundary for your place.
 - Any supplementary documentation (for example, terms of reference and code of conduct).
 - An outline of capacity funding spend to date and plans for additional spending.
- 2.8 The Governance and Boundary Guidance provides further detail on the proposed membership of the Neighbourhood Board. This broadens the range of representation required or encouraged on the Board. Informed by this guidance, it is proposed that Bill Nolan be appointed as Board Chair and Chris Pless be appointed as Vice Chair. This decision is to be taken in liaison with the local MP, Alan Gemmell, who has confirmed his support for both of the above positions. Furthermore, it is proposed that through engagement with the Board, the Executive Director (Place) confirms the required information for submission to UK Government including the refreshed membership. The proposed Board membership is provided at Appendix One and the Neighbourhood

Boundary is provided at Appendix Two.

- 2.9 The updated guidance provides further information on the approach to developing and delivering the Regeneration Plans. This will be considered in more detail by the Board at its future meetings. A report will then be considered by the Council's Cabinet in due course to seek approval of the four-year Regeneration Plan in advance of submission to MHCLG.

3. Proposals

3.1 That Council:

- a) Notes the update on the refreshed Plan for Neighbourhoods programme;
- b) Approves the appointment of the Irvine Neighbourhood Board Chair and Vice Chair;
- c) Approves the appointment of the three Elected Members to the Board as outlined at Appendix One;
- d) Notes the proposed membership and boundary of the Irvine Neighbourhood Board; and
- e) Provides delegated authority to the Executive Director (Place) to prepare the required information for submission to UK Government in consultation with the Irvine Neighbourhood Board.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

- 4.1 The total award per town has been confirmed as £19.509m. The Financial Assistance power under Section 50 of the UK Internal Market Act will be used to fund towns directly. The Council will act as the accountable body for the funds with responsibility for ensuring that public funds are distributed fairly and effectively, and that funds have been managed in line with the Nolan Principles and Managing Public Money principles. The Council is also responsible for compliance with legal responsibilities in relation to subsidy control, state aid and procurement.

Human Resources

- 4.2 Additional staff resource is required to support the delivery of the Fund and the development of a Regeneration Plan for Irvine due to the scale and duration of the award. This requirement was considered with the Irvine Locality Partnership. It is proposed that a Project Officer be recruited in the first instance to support the project, based in the Regeneration team. The cost of this will be met from the funding awarded and recruitment will commence on receipt of formal confirmation of the award.

Legal

- 4.3 The legal implications of the Irvine Plan for Neighbourhoods will be considered through its development and Legal advice taken as necessary. Legal agreements will be developed on a project-by-project basis as required with support from Legal Services. Negotiation in relation to any land and building acquisitions will be undertaken as necessary with support from the Council's Legal Services and Property Management and Investment Service.

Equality/Socio-economic

- 4.4 The Fund aims to support town centre regeneration and promote economic

development. This considers metrics covering skills, pay, productivity and health alongside the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. An initial screening will be undertaken to establish if an Equality and Children's Rights Impact Assessment is required for individual programme elements on a case-by-case basis.

Climate Change and Carbon

4.5 The development of a Regeneration Plan for Irvine will enable the delivery of projects aimed at revitalising Irvine. This could include promoting and improving active travel, reducing vacant and derelict land and carbon reduction measures. This aligns with the priorities of the Sustainable North Ayrshire Strategy and the commitment to reduce carbon emissions.

Key Priorities

4.6 The development and implementation of the programme will support all four of the Council Plan's priorities and strategic aims of:

- Wellbeing: To transition to a wellbeing economy, delivering prosperity, wellbeing and resilience for local people.
- Communities and Local Democracy: We will have active, inclusive and resilient communities.
- Climate Change: To achieve net-zero by 2030.
- A Sustainable Council: A Community Wealth Building Council that is efficient and accessible, maximising investment and focusing resources on our priorities.

Community Wealth Building

4.7 The Fund has the local community at the heart of its methodology. It aims to ensure investment is targeted at local priorities and will empower local communities to contribute to the regeneration of the town centre. A Community Wealth Building approach will be adopted to the development of the Regeneration Plan to ensure that its delivery contributes across the pillars of:

- Land and Assets: by supporting equitable land development and the development of underutilised assets for community use.
- Procurement: through the inclusion of appropriate community benefit of local supplier clauses within projects; and by considering phasing and programming of projects to create local supply chain opportunities and support delivery by smaller scale and local contractors where appropriate.
- Fair Employment: by supporting the creation of employment opportunities particularly within the construction sector. Where North Ayrshire is procuring services, through our enhanced Community Benefits approach we will seek to ensure the creation of local training and work experience opportunities. Consideration will also be given to delivery through employability programmes where appropriate.
- Financial Power: by investing in the town centre and leveraging additional external investment.

5. Consultation

5.1 The Plan for Neighbourhoods aims to ensure that local people are at the heart of

decisions, through direct membership of the Neighbourhood Board and through a requirement to engage widely on the regeneration plan for each town. The Regeneration Plan for Irvine will therefore be developed through co-production with the Neighbourhood Board and extensive engagement with stakeholders. This approach has been informed by engagement with Connected Communities. It will build on work to date, Locality Partnership's priorities, the Regeneration Delivery Plan and previous consultation exercises.

- 5.2 Updates have been provided to the Irvine Locality Partnership on the Fund. Through this, agreement was obtained alongside approval for the interim governance approach and the formation of the sub-group of the Locality Partnership. Representation on the Neighbourhood Board has been informed by engagement with the Locality Partnership and Connected Communities.

RUSSELL McCUTCHEON
Executive Director (Place)

For further information please **Claire Fitzsimmons, Interim Senior Manager - Regeneration**, on **01294 315305**.

Background Papers

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