



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

Meeting of the Council

Wednesday 18 December 2019

Responses to Questions

Question

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

“Noting that future economic growth and employment generation in North Ayrshire depends on a well-educated workforce, what impact does the steady decline in PISA scores in Mathematics in Scotland, over at least the last 10 years, have on future prospects for young people in North Ayrshire.”

Response

“The details of performance in the PISA survey are not available at local authority level, so it is not possible to directly connect the PISA performance to the young people of North Ayrshire.

The performance data that we do hold for our young people shows a broadly improving picture in mathematics in North Ayrshire. The recently published Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence Levels data (December 2019) shows that the proportion of learners in our primary and secondary schools who achieved the expected level in mathematics has increased since 2016. This will be reported to Cabinet along with the next set of SQA attainment at a future Cabinet meeting in the new year.

Similarly, in the senior phase, the proportion of pupils who left school in 2018/19 with a qualification in mathematics at SCQF* Level 4 or SCQF Level 5 was either maintained or improved in comparison with previous years. The performance at SCQF Level 6 has been maintained over the last 3 years and is slightly higher than the virtual comparator. This positive trend is included in the School Attainment Results 2018 paper, which was submitted to Cabinet on 14 May 2019.

Despite the improving picture of attainment in mathematics in North Ayrshire, there is still scope for further improvement. The education service is committed to securing further improvements to pupil outcomes across all subject areas, including mathematics. That is why the service is working closely this year with colleagues from Education Scotland to co-design specific actions which focus in on improving outcomes in mathematics and numeracy, building on the already successful impact of our Professional Learning Academy.

Attainment and achievement must be seen in terms of the totality of the curriculum, and not only through the lens of a single subject area. The May 2019 Cabinet paper shows a positive trend of attainment over time across a range of qualifications and levels in North Ayrshire.

A focus on developing a well-educated workforce and improving the future prospects of our young people in North Ayrshire remain our top priorities. The improving picture of attainment over time and the fact that almost 96% of our young people left school to go on to a positive destination last year are strong indicators of positive progress in this regard.”

**SCQF = Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework*

Reference: equivalents

Level 4 = National 4

Level 5 = National 5

Level 6 = Higher

Level 7 = Advanced Higher

Question

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

“At the Full Council Meeting held on Wednesday 25th September 2019 I asked the following question:

When considering the original (EIA) screening and planning applications in 2017/2018 and the second (EIA) screening in 2019, what tide lines did NAC use as part of their determination? Was it means high water springs or means low water springs?

In his answer the Chair of Planning confirmed that the Legal Cadastre was the High Water Mark and I quote, “Planning Permission and consequential EIA Screenings would be required for works above the High Water Mark and below that mark would be the responsibility of Marine Scotland.”

Can the Chair of Planning please confirm that the answer he gave was the correct answer?”

Response

“I welcome the opportunity to clarify the position. The concept of a Legal Cadastre is not relevant as a Cadastre is a register of land ownership, similar to the Scottish Land Register or Register of Sasines. What we should be talking about is the extent of the respective jurisdictions of the Council as planning authority and Marine Scotland. In the area between high and low water mark there is an overlap between the jurisdiction of Marine Scotland and the Council, as Planning Authority. If development is proposed in that area, both planning permission from the Council and a marine licence from Marine Scotland are likely to be required.”

Question

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

“To ask the Leader of the Council what his Administration’s position is on Rates Reliefs for businesses.”

Response

“Non-domestic rates (NDR) are paid into a national pool administered by the Scottish Government and redistributed to Local Authorities based on an estimate of the amount of business rates the Council will collect. The risk of any shortfall in the level of NDR collected lies with the Scottish Government.

The gross rates bill for North Ayrshire in 2019/20 is £56m. The total value of reliefs anticipated in 2019/20 is £13.6m, of which £170,000 is funded by the Council.”

Question

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

“According to an article in the Irvine Times edition dated 28th. November 2019, it stated that the Irvine Special Events Forum were ‘promising a Sea of Lights through the High Street’ after having been awarded £30,000 for the Big Event.

Will the Portfolio Holder for Place inform Members from which fund the £30,000 was granted and what the monies were spent? Will he also inform Members what the Council’s budget is for Decorative Lightings, for year 2019/2020, and what is the likely out turn?”

Response

“Irvine Special Events spent £25,049.34 on the Irvine Christmas lights this year. The group received £12,500 from the Town Centre Fund and £12,500 from the Community Development budget.

The breakdown of the spend on the Irvine lights has been made available (see attached) and totalled £25,049.34.

The Council’s budget for erecting and dismantling festive lights for local communities is £38,000 and is held within Streetscene. The works are carried out by Building Services. Council employees across a number of services including Building Services, Roads, Streetscene and Connected Communities also provide significant support to local communities to assist in festive lighting displays and costs are met from within existing resources. Support for lights and switch-on events is also provided through advice to groups to access local grants and external funding.

In addition, Beith and Dalry have each been allocated £10,000 from the Town Centre Fund for their Christmas lights display in 2020.”

Irvine Special Events Forum

Item Code	Description	Quantity	Price	Total	VAT
3 cross street designs on High st					
B146-11	2D Bauble & Star Design (H:4.70m x W:13.90m) 1437w	1	3,250.00000	3,250.00	650.00
B147-11	2D Star & Suspension Design (H:4.68m x W:13.94m) 1540w	1	3,250.00000	3,250.00	650.00
B145-11	2D Cherub & Forest Design (H:4.75m x W:13.96m) 1350w	1	3,250.00000	3,250.00	650.00
	Subtotal			9,750.00	1,950.00
2 cross streets Bank st					
B136012	Snowflake Dream (H:2.00m x W:7.69m) 551w	2	1,314.10000	2,628.20	525.64
	Subtotal			2,628.20	525.64
lights on rowan tree at town hall					
FL414G	LED Luminous Ceilings Pure White 24V Green Cable	1	302.40000	302.40	60.48
	Subtotal			302.40	60.48
Nativity scene					
SLED013R	Sapin Clarte Rouge (H:3.0m x W:1.15m) 25kg 40w	2	842.17500	1,684.35	336.87
GX316L	Monsieur Pain d'epice (H:1.84m x W:1.64m) 26kg 50w	1	1,088.70000	1,088.70	217.74
GX326LG	Parcel Gold 3D (H:1.0m x W:1.2m) 8.8kg 20w	2	420.85000	841.70	168.34
	Subtotal			3,614.75	722.95
structure at Bridgegate offices					
GX300L	Arbre 3D En LED White, Pur et fil (H:4.00m x W:4.00m) 84kg 150w	1	1,994.10000	1,994.10	398.82
	Subtotal			1,994.10	398.82
ceiling of light High st					
414FX	LED Flash Luminous Ceilings Pure W 24V, Silver	3	551.00000	1,653.00	330.60
	Subtotal			1,653.00	330.60
Braids for columns town hall					
TSL3WFX	LED Braids on rope - 7.5m-230v	4	108.00000	432.00	86.40
	Subtotal			432.00	86.40
Carriage					
ICARBLOC	Carriage ex Blockley	1	500.00000	500.00	100.00
	Subtotal			500.00	100.00
Proforma Account - Payment in full with order					