

Cabinet
31 August 2021

At a Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2:30 p.m. involving participation by remote electronic means.

Present

Joe Cullinane, John Bell, Robert Foster, Alex Gallagher, Louise McPhater and Jim Montgomerie.

In Attendance

R. McCutcheon, Executive Director, Y. Baulk, Head of Service (Physical Environment) and R. McGilvery, Senior Manager (Housing Operations) (Place); C. Amos, Interim Executive Director and R. Arthur, Head of Service (Connected Communities) (Communities and Education); C. Cameron, Director and P. Doak, Head of Service (Finance & Transformation) (Health and Social Care Partnership); M. Boyd, Head of Service (Finance) (Chief Executive's Service); A. Craig, Head of Service) and M. Sugden, Communications Officer, C. Stewart and A. Little, Committee Services Officers (Democratic Services) (Chief Executive's).

Chair

Joe Cullinane in the Chair.

1. Declarations of Interest

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

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Cabinet held on 15 June and the Minutes of Special Meeting of the Cabinet held on 29 June 2021 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Council Plan Progress Update - Year End 2020-21

Submitted a report and presentation by the Head of Service (Democratic Services) on progress on the priorities set within the 2019-24 Council Plan and response to the Covid-19 pandemic as at March 2021. The documents in question were attached at Appendices 1, 2, 3 and 4 to the report.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the revised target figure in relation to participatory budgeting (section 4.8 of the report refers).

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the progress of the Council Plan as at 31 March 2021 including replacement of an indicator (section 4.6) and target amendment (section 4.8); (b) note the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic so far; and (c) submit the report and appendices to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee for consideration at the next available date.

4. Council Plan 2019-24: Delivery Plan Refresh 2021-22

Submitted a report and presentation by the Head of Service (Democratic Services) on the Council Plan Delivery Plan as at June 2021. The documents in question were attached at Appendices 1 and 2, respectively to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the Council Plan Delivery Plan for 2021-22; and (b) submit the Delivery Plan to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee for consideration at the next available date.

5. Religious Representation on Cabinet (Education)

Submitted a report by the Head of Service (Democratic Services) on the representative of the Catholic Church on Cabinet.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the resignation of Babs Mowatt from Cabinet; (b) appoint Elizabeth Turbet as the representative of the Catholic Church on Cabinet when it meets to consider Education business; and (c) record its thanks and appreciation to Babs Mowatt for her valued input and service to the work of Education Cabinet over the years.

6. Health and Social Care Partnership – Budget Monitoring Report

Submitted a report by the Director (HSCP) on the projected financial outturn for the financial year as at 30 June 2021. The Budget Monitoring report presented to the IJB on 26 August 2021 was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to note (i) the overview of the financial position for the partnership and the projected year-end outturn position informed by the projected expenditure and income commitments, which have been prepared in conjunction with relevant budget holders and services and (ii) the estimated financial impact of the Covid-19 response, the associated funding and financial risks.

7. Proposal for Community Investment Fund (CIF) Expenditure

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) on an application by the Garnock Valley Locality Partnership to allocate CIF funding to a proposed project. The application was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to review the application from the Garnock Valley Locality Partnership in line with CIF criteria; and (b) to approve the CIF application in relation to the Garnock Valley Men's Shed in the amount of £20,000 as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

8. Community Benefits from Renewable Energy Development in North Ayrshire Policy

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) on the existing North Ayrshire Community Benefit from Wind Turbine Policy to include renewable energy development. The Policy was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the Community Benefits from Renewable Energy Development in North Ayrshire Policy as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

9. STEP Fusion Power Plant

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the decision taken by the Chief Executive under delegated authority to support the nomination of Ardeer as a potential site to be considered for the location of a Fusion Power Plant. A Members' briefing note dated 11 June 2021 was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the locations of the other potential sites in Scotland and the rest of the UK.

The Cabinet agreed to note (i) the decision to support and endorse the nomination of Ardeer as a potential site for this project; (ii) the subsequent inclusion of North Ayrshire Council support and membership of the consortium in the nomination paperwork; and (iii) the subsequent support required for the selection process.

10. Afghan Locally Employed Staff Relocation Scheme

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the scheme to relocate locally engaged staff who worked for the UK Government in Afghanistan and increase the Council's pledge to resettle more families.

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

- a possible request for additional funding to be made to the Scottish or UK Governments in the event that the current volatile situation changed (to be progressed through the appropriate channels as required); and
- enquiries that had been received from the local community who had kindly offered help and assistance to the resettled Afghan families and how these offers of assistance could be progressed to ensure maximum take-up to benefit the families in question.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note that the situation in Afghanistan had escalated quickly; (b) increase the pledge to relocate Afghan families within North Ayrshire from two to an initial five families; (c) grant delegated authority to the Executive Director (Place) and the Cabinet Member for Green New Deal & Sustainability to increase the pledge to resettle additional Afghan Locally Employed staff and their families; and (d) accept the need to prioritise the Afghan scheme ahead of the UK Resettlement Scheme.

11. Exclusion of the Public

Cabinet resolved in terms of Section 50(A)4 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude from the Meeting the press and the public for the following item of business on the grounds indicated in terms of Paragraph 10 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

12. Surplus Asset - Site at 1 Blair Road, Kilwinning

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the property at 1 Blair Road, Kilwinning.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the recommendation as detailed in the report.

The meeting ended at 3.35 p.m.