

Cabinet
22 February 2022

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; and Andrew Bruce and Elizabeth Turbet (Church Representatives) and Jackie MacKenzie (Teaching Representative) (Agenda Items 3-4).

In Attendance

C. Hatton, Chief Executive, M. Boyd, Head of Service (Finance) and F. Walker, Head of Service (People & ICT) (Chief Executive's Service); R. McCutcheon, Executive Director, D. Hammond, Head of Service (Physical Environment), C. McAuley, Head of Service (Economic Development and Regeneration), L. Kirk, Senior Manager (Regeneration), E. McMullen, Senior Manager (Economic Policy), L. Neill, Senior Manager (Employability), W. Turpie, Senior Manager (Waste Operations) and S. Baird, Senior Officer (Islands) (Place); C. Amos, Interim Executive Director, R. Arthur, Head of Service (Connected Communities), A. McClelland, Head of Service (Education) and L. Cook, Quality Improvement Officer (Communities and Education); C. Cameron, Director (Health and Social Care Partnership); K. Yeomans, Director, A. Laurenson, Senior Manager and N. McIlvanney, Senior Manager (Growth and Investment); M. Sugden, Communications Officer, C. Stewart and A. Little, Committee Services Officers (Democratic Services).

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 Meeting of the Cabinet held on 25 January 2022 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Financial Inclusion in Schools

Submitted a report by the Interim Executive Director (Communities and Education) on the current and proposed approach to improving financial education and financial inclusion across all school establishments.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information on the audit and evaluation that would take place in relation to financial education and financial inclusion within schools to improve consistency of provision across all establishments.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the current and proposed approach to improving financial education and financial inclusion across all school establishment; and (b) receive annual updates on this matter.

4. Pupil Equity Funding in North Ayrshire – Progress Report

Submitted a report by the Interim Executive Director (Communities and Education) providing an update on (1) the use of Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) in North Ayrshire during session 2020-21; (2) year to date spend for 2020-21; and (3) assessment on the impact of Covid-19 on implementation and impact. The PEF relating to each individual school was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

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

- the effectiveness of the spend in relation to PEF and the measurable outcomes in this respect;
- the effect Covid had in relation to impacting on the attainment gap in North Ayrshire, as well as on the other challenge authorities; and
- the attainment of care experienced children, which would be reported to Cabinet in due course.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note (i) the use of PEF investment to date as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, (ii) the positive impact PEF was having within school communities and (iii) note the impact Covid-19 has had on PEF in the 2020-21 academic year.

As this was likely to be the last meeting of Education Cabinet during the current Administration, Councillor Cullinane took the opportunity to thank the Lay Members for their service and attendance at Education Cabinet.

5. Participation Strategy – Statement of Intent

Submitted a report by the Interim Executive Director (Communities and Education) seeking approval for a consultation based on the Statement of Intent, which aimed to develop a Participation Strategy for Communities. The Participation Strategy – Statement of Intent was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note (i) the Statement of Intent, with the addition of the following bullet point in *Areas for further exploration* (page 11 of Appendix 1 to the report), viz. “Exploring public interest in asking questions directly at North Ayrshire Council meetings and considering what the governance might be required to support this” and (ii) that officers would continue to develop and deliver a community consultation; and (b) receive further updates.

6. North Ayrshire Leisure Limited (NALL) Performance and Impact Report incorporating the 2022-23 Budget

Submitted a report by the Interim Executive Director (Communities and Education) seeking approval for the North Ayrshire Leisure Limited (NALL) Performance and Impact Report incorporating the 2022-23 Budget. The KA Leisure Performance and Impact Report incorporating the 2022/23 Budget was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet also received a presentation from KA Leisure detailing the performance and impact work undertaken by the organisation to date to take the organisation forward and bring recovery and improvements.

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

- proposals to increase membership uptake in leisure facilities particularly for younger people, as another means of providing opportunities and tackling poverty/deprivation in North Ayrshire communities;
- collaborative working to improve golf courses in North Ayrshire, including proposals to improve maintenance and staffing to make them an attractive proposition for the area and to address footfall/customer uptake; and
- proposals to enhance and attract more visitors to the Vikingar! Facility in Largs.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note (i) the North Ayrshire Leisure Limited (NALL) Performance and Impact Report incorporating the 2022-23 Budget as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report (ii) the projected deficit position in 2021/22; and (b) authorise officers to continue to monitor and support the recovery.

7. Island Plans

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) seeking approval for the proposed 10-year socio-economic Island Plans and associated 2022/23 Annual Action Plans for Cumbrae and Arran to support an inclusive and green economic recovery and renewal of North Ayrshire's Island communities in line with their unique circumstances and opportunities. The proposed 10-year socio-economic Island Plans for Arran and Cumbrae and the proposed 2022/23 Annual Action Plans for Arran and Cumbrae were set out at Appendices 1 and 2, respectively, to the report.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to approve (i) the proposed 10-year socio-economic Island Plans for Arran and Cumbrae (Appendix 1 to the report) and (ii) the proposed 2022/23 Annual Action Plans for Arran and Cumbrae (Appendix 2 to the report); and (b) to note the proposed next steps.

8. Streetscene Environmental Skills & Training Academy – Intermediate Labour Market (ILM) Initiative

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the creation of a Streetscene Environmental Skills and Training Academy offering paid work placements for local residents to develop skills, work experience and qualifications to support their progression to future sustainable employment. The Streetscene Skills and Training Academy: Approach and Work Programme was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the proposed approach to the development of a Streetscene Environmental Skills and Training Academy ILM as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report; and (b) support the proposal to develop an Intermediate Labour Market initiative within Streetscene providing paid work placements and a programme of additional environmental works.

9. Regeneration Delivery Plan Update

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on a mid-year update on the progress of the Regeneration Delivery Plan and seeking approval for the review of the action programme. A mid-year update on the key successes to date and the proposed approach to the review of the action programme and update of the Regeneration Delivery Plan was set out at Appendices 1 and 2, respectively, to the report.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to note the progress made on the Regeneration Delivery Plan as set out at Appendix 1 to the report; (b) to approve (i) the approach to the review of the action programme as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report, and (ii) the submission of the updated Regeneration Delivery Programme to a future Cabinet.

10. i3 Strategic Investment Campus – Renewable Energy Proposals

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the potential to install a solar photovoltaic (PV) farm and wind turbines at the i3 Strategic Investment Campus as part of the Council's environmental roadmap to achieve net-zero carbon by 2030.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the recommendations provided through the Council's partnership with the University of Strathclyde for renewable energy systems at i3; and (b) approve the development of a business case proposal on solar and wind generation at i3, based on the outcome of current feasibility studies, which would also consider potential funding requirements and their impact on project viability.

11. North Ayrshire Visitor Management Plan 2022

Submitted a report by the Director (Growth & Investment) on a Visitor Management Plan for 2022 to support a range of actions to manage the expected increase in domestic tourism. The draft North Ayrshire Visitor Management Plan for 2022 was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the draft North Ayrshire Visitor Management Plan for 2022, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

12. Ardrossan Marina - Operator Agreement

Submitted a report by the Director (Growth & Investment) on the Heads of Terms of an agreement between the Council and Clyde Marina Ltd., the proposed operator of an extension to Ardrossan Marina.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the Heads of Terms of an agreement for the operation of Ardrossan Marina with Clyde Marina Ltd.

The meeting ended at 4.35 p.m.