

Cabinet
23 August 2022

IRVINE, 23 August 2022 - At a Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m.

Present

Marie Burns, Scott Davidson, Tony Gurney, Alan Hill, Margaret Johnson and Shaun Macaulay.

Also Present

Ian Murdoch (Agenda Item 4).

In Attendance

C. Hatton, Chief Executive; R. McCutcheon, Executive Director, D. Hammond, Head of Service (Sustainability, Transport & Corporate Property), C. McAuley, Head of Service (Economic Development and Regeneration), L. Kirk, Senior Manager (Regeneration), E. McMullen, Senior Manager (Economic Policy) and L. Neill, Senior Manager (Employability) (Place); A. Sutton, Executive Director and R. Arthur, Head of Service (Connected Communities) (Communities & Education); C. Cameron, Director and A. Sutherland, Head of Service (Children, Families and Justice Services) (Health and Social Care Partnership); K. Yeomans, Director (Growth and Investment); M. Boyd, Head of Service (Finance); and A. Craig, Head of Service, J. Hutcheson, Senior Communications Officer, C. Stewart and D. Mccaw, Committee Services Officers (Democratic Services).

Apologies

Christina Larsen.

Chair

Marie Burns in the Chair.

1. Minutes

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

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 11 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

3. Third Church Representation on Cabinet (Education)

Submitted a report by the Head of Service (Democratic Services) seeking the appointment of Reverend Mark Goodman to replace Ian Haining as the Third Church representative on Cabinet when it meets to consider Education business.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the resignation of Ian Haining from Cabinet; and (b) appoint Reverend Mark Goodman as the Third Church representative on Cabinet when it meets to consider Education business.

4. Valaris DS-4 Investigation Report

Submitted a report by the Head of Service (Democratic Services) on an investigation by the Republic of the Marshall Islands Maritime Administrator in relation to the above incident. The investigation report into the incident was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

At the invitation of the Chair, Councillor Murdoch, as one of the Members in whose ward the incident occurred, addressed Cabinet and received a response.

The Cabinet agreed to note (i) that the investigation by the Republic of the Marshall Islands Maritime Administrator had been concluded and (ii) that the recommendations had been issued to the parties concerned.

5. Proposals for Community Investment Fund (CIF) Expenditure

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) on applications by Locality Partnerships to allocate CIF funding to proposed projects. The proposals from Input were set out in Appendix 1 to the report, with proposals from Irvine Tennis Club, Kilwinning Community Sports Club (Kilwinning Tennis) and Ardrossan Community Association being set out at Appendices 2, 3 and 4, respectively, to the report.

Members commented and asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the community benefits arising from the CIF applications set out in the Appendices to the report, which had been worked up by the relevant Locality Partnerships.

The Cabinet (a) reviewed the applications from the Irvine Locality Partnership, the Kilwinning Locality Partnership, and the Three Towns Locality Partnership in line with CIF criteria; and (b) agreed to approve the CIF applications in relation to (i) Input in the amount of £60,000, (ii) Irvine Tennis Club in the amount of £100,000, (iii) Kilwinning Community Sports Club for Kilwinning Tennis development in the amount of £55,000 and (iv) Ardrossan Community Association in the amount of £48,586.

6. Community Support Funding for North Ayrshire Residents

Submitted a report by the Head of Service (Finance) on proposals for a range of community supports for North Ayrshire residents during the current cost-of-living crisis.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the range of measures put in place by the Council to assist in helping the community deal with the cost-of-living crisis, including the seasonal child bridging payments.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the investment proposals contained in the report.

7. 'Energy Smart': Energy Based Community Support Model

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on a proposed £1.726m 'Energy Smart': Energy Based Community Support Model designed to support North Ayrshire households during the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the 2 phases of the Community Support Model, namely Phase 1 – Energy Advice and Phase 2 – Energy Efficiency Measures.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the implementation of the proposed £1.726m 'Energy Smart': Energy-Based Community Support Model funding towards low income and vulnerable fuel poor households on the basis outlined in the report.

8. UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the Council's application to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) and seeking approval of the proposed Investment Plan for submission to UK Government. The North Ayrshire SPF Business Plan was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the funding streams and strategic approach contained in the North Ayrshire SPF Business Plan.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to note the approach taken to develop the North Ayrshire SPF Investment Plan; (b) to approve the content of the North Ayrshire SPF Business Plan (Appendix 1); (c) that the endorsement of the North Ayrshire SPF Business Plan be sought from the Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee; and (d) thereafter to submit the North Ayrshire Investment Plan to UK Government by 1 September 2022.

9. Ayrshire Skills Investment Fund: Ayrshire Growth Deal Regional Revenue Project

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on an overview of the Ayrshire Skills Investment Fund (AGD Project).

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to helping support people into work.

The Cabinet agreed to note (i) the contents of this report and (ii) the approval of the ASIF Outline Business Case by the Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee in June 2022.

10. Net Zero Energy and Transport Committee – Inquiry into a modern and sustainable ferry service for Scotland

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the proposed North Ayrshire Council submission to the Net Zero Energy and Transport Committee's Inquiry into a modern and sustainable ferry service for Scotland. The proposed submission to the call for views was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

That Cabinet agreed to approve the submission of the proposed response to the call for views as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

11. Digital Processing Manufacturing Centre, i3 Irvine: Phase 1, Full Business Case

Submitted a report by the Director (Growth & Investment) seeking endorsement of the Full Business Case (FBC) for Phase 1 of the Digital Processing Manufacturing Centre. The Full Business Case was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to endorse the Full Business Case (FBC) for Phase 1 of the Digital Processing Manufacturing Centre (DPMC) project at i3, subject to receiving endorsement from UK Government; and (b) to approve the submission of the FBC to the Ayrshire Joint Committee.

12. Ardrossan Strategic Regeneration Programme and advanced works infrastructure update

Submitted a report by the Director (Growth & Investment) on the Ardrossan Strategic Regeneration Programme and the package of infrastructure works to enable construction of the Ardrossan Community Campus, marine, commercial and residential development.

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

- market conditions currently being experienced with tender processes in the construction sector, which were across the board; and
- the importance of ensuring good communication in keeping everyone informed on the future progress of the Ardrossan Community Campus.

The Cabinet agreed to note (i) the update to the Ardrossan Strategic Regeneration programme and (ii) that a detailed update would be brought to a future meeting of Cabinet in November 2022.

13. North Ayrshire – “The Promise” 2 years on

Submitted a report by the Director (Health & Social Care Partnership) on the ongoing work within North Ayrshire to deliver “The Promise” to our Children and Young People.

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

- the Promise Conference in November 2022;
- funding arrangements of “The Promise” and early intervention/prevention;
- the reduction in the numbers of children and young people in the care system, in North Ayrshire, over the past 5 years; and
- bringing children and young people back to their local community in North Ayrshire from external placements, where appropriate.

The Cabinet agreed to note (i) the progress in North Ayrshire to lay the foundations to deliver on the ambitions of The Promise and note the further areas of work planned during Phase 1 to 2024 and (ii) that a further progress report and action plan would be remitted to Cabinet following The Promise Conference to be held in November 2022.

The meeting ended at 3.50 p.m.