

Cabinet  
19 June 2012

**IRVINE, 19 June 2012** - At a Meeting of Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m.

**Present**

Willie Gibson, Alan Hill, Marie Burns, Anthea Dickson, John Ferguson, Tony Gurney, Alex McLean; (For Education Items Only) Very Reverend Matthew Canon McManus and Gordon Smith.

**Also Present**

Alex Gallagher.

**In Attendance**

E. Murray, Chief Executive; I. Colvin, Corporate Director (Social Services & Health); L. Friel, Corporate Director, A. Bodie, Head of Infrastructure & Design Services, C. Hatton, Head of Environment and Related Services (Finance and Infrastructure); C. Kirk, Corporate Director, M. Armstrong, M. Docherty, A. Sutton, Heads of Service, J. McKnight, Manager, Community Development, S. Storrie, Project Manager (Education and Skills); A. Blakely, IT Manager, E. Gunn, Customer Services Manager and A. Laurenson, Team Manager (Corporate Services); M. Macfarlane, Head of Human Resources, J. Montgomery, General Manager (Policy and Service Reform), C. O'Kane, Change Programme Manager, L. McEwan, Communications Manager, M. McKeown, Committee Services Manager and A. Little, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's)

**Also In Attendance**

A. Jones, Headteacher, Largs Academy; R. Wallace, Ardrossan Academy and L. Kolodziej, Auchenhavie Academy.

**Chair**

Councillor Gibson in the Chair.

**1. Chair's Remarks**

The Chair (a) welcomed the Headteacher of Largs Academy, and the pupils from Ardrossan and Auchenhavie Academies who were in attendance; (b) updated the Cabinet on the visit by Derek Mackay MSP, Minister for Local Government and Planning, the first Ministerial visit of the new administration; and (c) requested that the Solicitor to the Council circulate an update to the Cabinet on the removal of decking installed by West Kilbride Community Initiative Limited at the Barony Church, West Kilbride.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 16 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

### **3. Largs Academy Improvement Plan**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on arrangements for sustaining and improving the quality of education in Largs Academy.

Largs Academy was inspected by HMIE in February 2008 and a very positive report was published in May of that year. A further follow-through report published in December 2009 noted the extensive, clear and very convincing evidence of continued and significant improvement since the original inspection. Appendix A to the report outlined some key facts about Largs Academy. The School Improvement Plan was appended at Appendix B and outlined the following six priorities:-

- Raising Attainment
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Curriculum for Excellence
- Policy Review
- Leadership Development
- Development of Coaching

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

- a variety of community initiatives undertaken by the school;
- arrangements to share learning/good practice with other schools;
- the promotion of business enterprise via links with the Chamber of Commerce;
- a number of sporting achievements in netball, basketball and football;
- the Leadership Programme for 2nd year pupils and a coaching model being developed for senior pupils; and
- the pupil support unit.

The Cabinet noted the efforts made by Largs Academy to improve the quality of education.

### **4. Scotland's Schools for the Future - Phase 3 Investment Proposals**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on the submission of a funding application for Phase 3 Scottish Government Schools Investment programme.

In October 2011 the Council approved a business case for Education and Skills which highlighted a number of service proposals and school estate developments. Officers have been developing a range of investment proposals around the school estate. Round 1 of the business case has already been agreed and signed off by Members, largely covering investment in the primary and nursery estate and Garnock Academy. Round 2 of the business case will be a £10m investment for the primary school estate, approved as part of the Capital Programme in February 2011. Round 3 of the proposed business case would continue with the neighbourhood approach, considering the secondary and special school estate and the establishment of investment plans.

In February 2012, the Scottish Government launched Phase 3 of funding support from the Scotland's Schools for the Future programme. Applications for Phase 3 require to be submitted to the Scottish Government by 21 July 2012.

In preparation for the funding application for the secondary school estates, nine current secondary schools were each considered within the Education and Skills business case objective to rationalise the secondary estate. The wider school estate to identify more innovative ways of meeting the needs of all children, including those children with complex needs currently attending Haysholm and James McFarlane schools, was also considered

A new campus, located within the 3 Towns, on a site still to be identified, would replace the existing James McFarlane school, Haysholm school, Auchenharvie Academy and Ardrossan Academy. Consolidating these schools on one location and as part of a joint campus with health and social care services allows for efficiencies in the building fabric and Climate Act demands but also offers opportunities to improve learning environments and deliver integrated education and care services.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the following:-

- a range of funding support options detailed in Table 1 within the report and the preferred option to develop a campus with health and social care to replace the existing James McFarlane school, Haysholm school, Auchenharvie Academy and Ardrossan Academy that would be submitted to the Scottish Government;
- consideration by the Scottish Government of all options in light of all other applications;
- the nature of potential revenue savings;
- the significant educational benefits of well designed schools that provide flexible accommodation that can be adapted quickly for a wide variety of needs;
- the provision of a dedicated wing for children with special needs and the integration of all pupils in a range of other facilities within the school; and
- the financial impact of the proposal and the need to build in financial provision for future years.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to note the progress on the development of the Phase 3 funding application; (b) to the preferred option to develop a campus with health and social care to replace the existing James McFarlane School, Haysholm School, Auchenhavie Academy and Ardrossan Academy; and (c) that officers prepare and submit the application no later than 21 July 2012.

## **5. School Placing Requests Online**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on the proposal to accept school placing requests online that are received by means of electronic communication.

The Electronic Communications (Scotland) Order 2006 (SSI 2006/367) allows a placing request to be made by means of electronic communication. The Authority must pass a resolution (i.e. get acceptance by the appropriate Committee) to accept receipt of such electronic requests and thereafter publish such a resolution. At present placing requests are received on paper forms and these are keyed into a database. It is proposed that North Ayrshire residents should be given the opportunity to complete placing requests online. This online form would be capable of being printed by both the person making the request and the relevant service. Automated emails would subsequently keep the customer updated with the progress of their request and outline expected timescales and next steps.

The Cabinet agreed to allow placing requests to be made by means of electronic communication.

## **6. Cluster Plus Pilot Project**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on the progress of the Cluster Plus Pilot Project within the Ardrossan Community.

The Education Business Case for Change was approved by the Education Executive of North Ayrshire Council on 25 October 2011. It included recommendations on the further development of cluster working. The Cluster Plus Pilot Project includes all Education and Skills staff delivering services in the Ardrossan area, and aims to develop their collaboration and joint working with partners and community organisations. A range of training and workshops have taken place for Education and Skills Managers, partners and community organisations and young people from throughout the cluster. Education Scotland carried out a Validated Self-Evaluation of the process on 21 May 2012 and initial feedback is that there is a lot of enthusiasm for the project and a need to build on that momentum.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the following:-

- projected efficiency savings that will be reflected in future revenue budget reports; and
- the incorporation of Auchenharvie in the Cluster Plus Pilot Project, if the 3 Towns campus proposal is successful.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the progress; and (b) receive a further report in June 2013 detailing the benefits that have been achieved through the project and recommendations around how these can be taken forward in other communities.

## **7. Schools of Sport**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on the Schools of Sport programme to seek support for the extension of the initiative as appropriate.

The Scottish Government Games Legacy plan for Glasgow 2014, sets out a strategy to make Scotland more 'active, connected, sustainable and flourishing'. The North Ayrshire Physical Activity and Sport Strategy, 'Fit for the Future 2010-2015,' is providing a local strategic context for delivery. In a recent development, the National Governing Bodies of Scottish Rugby, Football and Basketball expressed an interest in delivering Schools of Sport programme in North Ayrshire.

Expressions of interest were sought from North Ayrshire secondary schools. As a result of this process, Ardrossan Academy will become a School of Rugby and a School of Basketball, Irvine Royal Academy will become a School of Rugby and Auchenharvie Academy will become a School of Football. The funding is currently provided by North Ayrshire Council, approximately £30,000 per annum for three schools. The three sports will match fund the programme with sportscotland providing further input. It is envisaged that schools will progress to identifying how they will contribute to the overall programme in kind or financially.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on:-

- the initial interest expressed by all secondary schools in the School of Sport programme; and
- the participation of other sports in the programme in future years.

The Cabinet agreed to welcome and support the Schools of sport programme.

## **8. Nurturing Excellence in Culture and Sport**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on an innovative initiative to develop excellence in young people who participate in culture and sport in North Ayrshire.

The Scottish Government Games Legacy Plan for Glasgow 2014 sets out a strategy to make Scotland more 'active, connected, sustainable and flourishing'. Education and Skills currently support a range of individuals who excel in pursuit of their chosen activity, mainly in relation to sports and music, and has recently developed a programme designed to provide more strategic and effective support for individuals who excel in their chosen field. A formal funding request was made to the Council via the normal budget process to enable a support mechanism to be established for the individuals described above. Funding of £100,000 was allocated for three categories, namely talented sports individuals, talented arts individuals and support to organisations. The report provided information on the overarching principles that will apply to all applicants and participants.

The Cabinet agreed to welcome and support the Nurturing Excellence programme.

### **9. Irvine Carters' Society Community Floats Group**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on a proposal to relocate the Irvine Carters' Society Community Floats Group from the old Police Station in Irvine to Eglinton Park.

Irvine Carters' Society was first formed for business and charitable purposes and their history is as old as the Incorporated Trades of the Royal Burgh of Irvine. The society requires to relocate from its current location in the old Police Station in Irvine due to proposed development of the site. The current proposal is to relocate the Carters' Society and their floats to the Nissen shed formally known as the "Playbarn" in Eglinton Country Park Visitor Complex.

The Cabinet agreed to the relocation of the Carters' Society and their floats to the Nissen shed in Eglinton Country Park Visitor Complex.

### **10. Review of Senior Management (Chief Officer) Structure**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on options for change to the Council's senior management (chief officer) organisational structure.

The last review of the senior officer structure was undertaken in 2009 and implemented during 2010. In view of the changes and reform taking place both nationally and within the Council it is appropriate for a further review of the suitability of the Council's senior officer arrangements to ensure that the Council's strategic priorities can continue to be delivered. A further review will be required in the next 12 to 18 months to reflect other changes at a national and local level. The current review is the first stage within a phased approach to keeping structures up-to-date and flexible.

The report provided information in relation to the current position within the Change Programme, Public Sector Reform and succession management. Proposals for Education and Skills, Social Services and Health, Finance and Infrastructure, Corporate Services and Chief Executives were detailed in sections 3.1 - 3.16 of the report. Appendix 1 to the report provided details of the existing service functions and Appendix 2 detailed the proposed immediate changes in Phase 1 and the related impact on staffing levels.

The Cabinet agreed the proposals as detailed in the report.

## **11. Sundry Debtors Write off**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) on balances written off under delegated powers and seeking authority to write off balances over £1,000.

The Council's Financial Regulations allow sums due to the Council to be written off when all avenues for recovery have been exhausted and where the sums are considered to be irrecoverable. Delegated authority allows sums of less than £500 to be written off by the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) and sums of between £500 and £1,000 to be written off by the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) in consultation with the Chief Executive. Individual debts of over £1,000 require the approval of the Cabinet before being written off.

An exercise was recently carried out to identify and remove any historical prescribed debt that had not been previously written-off from the sundry debtor system. Appendix 1 to the report provided details of 1225 accounts below £1,000, with a value of £93,165.20 that were identified during the review and have been written off under delegated powers. A further 108 accounts in excess of £1,000, amounting to £25,142.97 require Cabinet approval to write off.

The Cabinet agreed to write off 108 accounts in excess of £1,000, amounting to £25,142.97, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

## **12. Write off irrecoverable and non-recoverable Housing Benefit overpayments**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) on balances written off under delegated powers during 2011-12 and seeking authority to write off non-recoverable and irrecoverable Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit overpayments in excess of £1,000.

The Council's Financial Regulations provide that sums due to the Council may be written off when all avenues for recovery have been exhausted and where the sums are deemed to be irrecoverable. In terms of the Council's policy for the recovery of Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Overpayments, overpayments in excess of £1,000 that cannot be recovered must be written off with Elected Member approval.

Non-recoverable overpayments occur when an official body, such as the Council, causes an overpayment by a change in policy or by failing to act and the customer could not reasonably have been expected to know that they were being overpaid. In such cases, the overpayment is not recovered from the claimant and is put forward for write off. Irrecoverable overpayments occur in cases such as where the claimant is deceased or moved away and their whereabouts are unknown.

Appendix 1 to the report provided details of 77 non-recoverable overpayments totalling £12,024.87 that have been written off under delegated powers. A further 20 accounts in excess of £1,000 totalling £49,038.21 require the Cabinet's approval to be written off. The same appendix showed that there are 498 irrecoverable overpayments below £1,000 with a value of £90,170.44 which have been written off under delegated powers, and a further 31 accounts in excess of £1,000 totalling £79,025.27 requiring the Cabinet's approval.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the sums written off under delegated powers; and (b) to approve the write off Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit overpayments in excess of £1,000, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

### **13. Council tax and non-domestic rates write off 2010-11**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) seeking retrospective approval to write off Council Tax and non-Domestic Rates debts identified during the 2010-11 financial year, as set out in Appendices 1 and 2.

All Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates accounts go through a full recovery process. However, on occasion, information is received which confirms that the debt is unlikely to be recovered or where continued recovery action is considered inappropriate. Appendix 1 to the report showed that £531,919.36 of Non-Domestic Rates debt, covering the period 2008-09 to 2010-11, was written off during the financial year 2010-11. Appendix 2 to the report provided details of the £296,292.62 of Council Tax debt, covering the period from 2005-06 to 2010-11, which was written off during 2010-11.

The Cabinet agreed to give retrospective approval to write off the Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates debt set out in Appendices 1 and 2 to the report.



## **14. Updated Benefit Fraud Prosecution Policy**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) on the updated benefit fraud prosecution policy.

The Council's Benefit Fraud Prosecution Policy sets out the Council's commitment against fraud and the factors that are taken into account when deciding the appropriate sanction to apply against a person who has obtained housing and council tax benefit by fraudulent means. The policy is reviewed annually for any legislative or operational changes and was last amended in 2010. The Welfare Reform Act 2012 has amended Section 115A and 115B of the Social Security Administration Act 1992 as from 8 May 2012. This amends the amount the Council can impose for an administrative penalty for benefit fraud offences committed from 8 May 2012 onwards and also the time period the claimant has to accept an administrative penalty.

The report provided details of the changes introduced by the Welfare Reform Act 2012. The Benefit Fraud Prosecution Policy has been amended to take account of the changes and was attached at Appendix 1.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the updated Benefit Fraud Prosecution Policy.

## **15. SPT Grant Funding**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) on the Grant funding from Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) for 2012-13.

In accordance with the Transport Outcomes Report (TOR) an agreement between SPT and North Ayrshire Council, bids are made to SPT on an annual basis for capital funding towards schemes named in the TOR. As a result, North Ayrshire Council has been offered grant funding totalling £1,100,000 from SPT for financial year 2012-13 for Kilwinning Station Park and Ride Car Park, Bus Quality Corridor enhancements, Arran Bus Route Improvements and Bus Stop improvements. SPT are currently finalising the 2012/13 TOR and this is expected to be approved by the SPT Board in June. Reports to each Area Committee earlier in 2012, sought Members' suggestions for potential public transport related schemes. These have been added to a list of potential schemes maintained by the Council for inclusion in the TOR, to be used when future bids are sought for SPT funding. Appendix 1 to the report provided a list of the potential SPT schemes.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the progression of construction of the park and ride car park at Kilwinning Station.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the offers of grant funding received from SPT for projects to be delivered during 2012-13; and (b) delegate authority to the Head of Infrastructure and Design Services to bid for appropriate future public transport improvement funding from SPT in line with the TRO.

## **16. Treatment of Residual Waste**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) on a proposal to join the Clyde Valley partnership to secure a long term solution for the treatment of residual waste.

The Council has explored a range of solutions for the long-term treatment of residual waste. In order to achieve a quantity of waste sufficient to enable a practical and economic solution the Council worked in conjunction with South and East Ayrshire Councils. However given the anticipated closure date of the Council's current disposal facilities at Shewalton it was clear that the Council had to move quickly to secure appropriate arrangements

Exploratory discussions have taken place with North Lanarkshire Council who are the lead Council for the Clyde Valley Waste partnership. The partner Councils (North Lanarkshire, East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and East Dumbartonshire) are undertaking a joint procurement exercise for the procurement of a residual waste treatment and disposal solution. A high level financial model has been completed which has identified considerable cost avoidance, gained largely through economies of scale, across the participating Councils over the length of a contract. In order to maximise the potential benefits of cost avoidance the partnership is looking to commence the procurement exercise during the Autumn of 2012. Appendix 1 provided details of an Inter Authority Agreement, agreed by the four participating Councils for the residual waste procurement process. The Agreement covers how the costs of procurement will be apportioned and how project governance arrangements will operate, including mechanisms to deal with disagreement between Councils, and the processes to be followed and the financial consequences should a Council withdraw from the project during the course of the procurement.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the following:-

- the long term nature of the project (25 years);
- consideration of environmental and economical factors when considering transportation of waste; and
- the provision of more details of the procurement process and that procurement advisors had not yet been appointed.

The Cabinet agreed (a) formal negotiations be conducted with the Clyde Valley partnership with a view to North Ayrshire joining their joint procurement exercise for the treatment of residual waste; (b) subject to the satisfactory conclusion of detailed negotiations with the Clyde Valley partnership, the Council enters into the Inter Authority Agreement (as attached at Appendix 1) to procure a long term solution for the treatment of residual waste; and (c) the Head of Environment & Related Services be the Council's nominated representative on the steering group and is authorised to take appropriate decisions as detailed in the Inter Authority Agreement.

## **17. Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme Funding**

Submitted report by the Solicitor to the Council on Historic Scotland Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) funding availability and to seek approval to progress a funding bid for Kilbirnie.

Historic Scotland announced that a new Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) funding round will be open for applications until 31 August 2012. Grant funding may be awarded for various purposes related to the historic built environment within Conservation Areas such as making improvements to key buildings, providing small grants to private property owners, public realm works and the provision of training, education and skills. The thirteen Conservation Areas within North Ayrshire have been assessed in terms of their potential for a successful CARS package. This has taken account of Historic Scotland guidance, the quality of the historic environment, opportunities for improvements to key buildings, potential partners and funding possibilities.

Following appraisal of a number of conservation areas against the Historic Scotland criteria (Appendix 1) it was considered that Kilbirnie represents the Conservation Area with the most potential for a viable Council led bid. Key considerations for Kilbirnie include the need for regeneration and investment in the built environment, Council control of prominent historic buildings, the improvement of which would make a significant difference within a concentrated area, and its lack of any previous Historic Scotland investment.

It had been recognised that the Millport Outstanding Conservation Area had some potential to access funding from the Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme and that officers should therefore assist in the analysis of the potential for a bid for Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme funding by the Cumbrae Community Development Company.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to approve the preparation of analysis of the potential for a Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme funding bid for Kilbirnie; and (b) that a report setting out the implications be provided to a future meeting in advance of the bid deadline.

## **18. Shared Services - Pan Ayrshire Regulatory Service**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the business case for a pan Ayrshire regulatory service.

Since the spring of 2006, an agreed programme of work in respect of Regulatory Services, namely Building Standards, Environmental Health and Trading Standards has been progressed through the Shared Services arrangements, agreed by all three Ayrshire Councils. Work has been progressed in respect of governance arrangements, operational structures and the financial model for the Shared Service. This work has now been completed and a Business and Implementation Plan has been finalised. The Plan outlines the proposal for moving forward based on management structures, financial arrangements and Service benefits. The financial implications detailed in the report, indicated that there is no overwhelming financial incentive for the project to proceed. Savings, in relation to management structures, will not be achievable until the end of year two and there are likely to be costs for each Council in relation to severance payments and ICT development.

The Cabinet agreed that the case for a Pan-Ayrshire regulatory Services is not conclusive and that no further work should be undertaken.

## **19. Scottish Futures Trust - Hubco update**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) on progress of the Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) South West Territory Hub partnership, and to highlight other SFT activity affecting North Ayrshire.

Bids for enabling fund for projects contained in the Territory delivery plan have been made for Garnock Campus and Montrose House. An initial bid had been made for the new leisure centre in Irvine but this was withdrawn due to timing of the project and the implementation of the Hubco. The project team has completed the competitive dialogue process and awaits the final tender submissions from the two bidders. These will be assessed during July. Arrangements are being put in place to ensure a smooth and timeous contract approval and partnership agreement process in September, to allow the Hubco to go 'live' in October. The report provided details of enabling funding offered to the Council for Garnock Academy and Montrose House, and to Irvine Bay Regeneration Company for projects in Ardrossan.

A South West Hub Territory Draft Delivery Plan is being developed which sets out the priorities of the South West Hub Territory Participants for the use of services from South West Hubco. A summary of the Plan was attached as Appendix 1 and the full plan will be finalised nearer to start date of the Territory Partnership.

The Chief Executive of SFT will take the lead for property asset management within the Scottish Cabinet. The SFT will review asset management plans and provide an external challenge to public bodies on their strategic approach to property asset management and the savings that can be achieved. A more detailed report on this will be brought to Members at a future Cabinet meeting.

The Cabinet noted the update on progress on the hub initiative and other related SFT activities in North Ayrshire.

## **20. Change Programme: Progress as at 31 May 2012**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on an update in relation to the Change Programme.

On 16 March 2011, the Council agreed that quarterly update reports should be submitted to the former Executive for information. On 13 September 2011, the Executive agreed to extend the Strategic Partner contract with iMPower for a further year, to 20 October 2012.

The report provided information in relation to:-

- National Policy Developments;
- Specific programmes/projects in Social Services and Care and Education and Skills;
- Bridgegate House;
- Altering service demand;
- Transports;
- Asset Management;
- Supporting services; and
- Customer Services

Details of the Change Fund and Service Redesign and Investment Fund established to cover the costs of the Change Programme were attached at appendices A and B respectively.

The Cabinet was advised that a briefing on the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) will be arranged for Members.

Noted.

## **21. Welfare Reform Action Plan and Baseline Indicators**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) on the Welfare Reform action plan and baseline indicators.

The Welfare Reform Act 2012 contains a range of welfare reforms that have significant consequences for the local wider community, all benefit claimants and Council Services and strategies. Some reforms were implemented in 2011 under separate regulations and other reforms are now being phased in over the period 2012 to 2017. In recognition of the significant impact of the new legislation, a cross service Welfare Reform Working Group was established in February 2012.

The working group has developed an action plan to respond to each of the welfare reforms. The action plan contains details of the 13 welfare reforms to be implemented, their possible impact, the action to be taken, the person responsible for leading that action, the date the action will be taken and the target date for completion. The group has also compiled a set of baseline indicators that will be used to measure and track the reforms and identify any trends that are emerging. Appendix 1 set out the action plan and baseline indicators.

Noted.

## **22. BV2 Improvement Plan: Progress Update**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on progress in implementing the BV2 Improvement Plan 2011/12 as at 31 March 2012.

The BV2 Improvement Plan was approved by the Council on 13 April 2011 and has been reported on quarterly. A Quarter 3 report on progress at 31 December 2011 was submitted to the former Executive on 28 February 2012 and to the former Scrutiny Committee on 28 March 2012. This report indicated that 10 actions were slightly adrift of target and three would not be complete by March 2012. The Executive agreed to approve extensions to the three actions (2.1.3, 5.4.1 and 7.4.2) in the improvement plan which it was indicated would not be complete until later in 2012. The BV2 Improvement Plan has now been successfully implemented, with the exception of the three actions which were given extensions into 2012/13. The table at 2.2 showed the overall progress in implementing the BV2 Improvement Plan. The progress during the last quarter made on the three actions which were given extensions into 2012/13 were detailed at 2.3. Progress on each of the remaining 97 actions in the BV2 Improvement Plan is now shown as being complete and at 100% on Covalent. A report setting out full details of all 97 actions is available on request from the Policy and Performance Team and is also available on the Members' Page on Navigate - "MNavigate".

Noted.

## **23. ICT Infrastructure Strategic Review**

Submitted report by the Solicitor to the Council on the progress made on the Council's ICT Infrastructure Strategic Review.

The Council's ICT Strategy was approved by the former Executive on 6 December 2011 and advised that IT Services would engage with ICT Industry partners to provide an ICT infrastructure that is reliable, flexible and secure, conforms to appropriate technical standards and will enable staff to be more agile in how they deliver services to the public. The ICT Asset Management Plan has a key action to develop roadmaps and replacement plans for ICT assets in line with the ICT Strategy. A Data and Voice Infrastructure Review is now complete and the main outcomes were detailed at 3.2.1. Over and above and out-with the scope of the Infrastructure review there is a requirement to develop a strategic approach to manage and control wireless access within schools.

The report provided information in relation to:-

- the wide area network;
- the local area network;
- telephony;
- wireless access in schools; and
- the estimated costs and compliance scores of the short-listed options and the existing infrastructure costs.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note progress on the Infrastructure Review; (b) approve the allocation of funding from the Service Redesign Investment Fund over the 3 years; and (c) approve progression to the tender phase of the ICT Infrastructure Review.

## **24. All Ayrshire Roads & Transportation Professional Services Framework Agreement**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) on tenders for the provision of an All Ayrshire Consultancy framework.

The Roads Service currently procures professional consultancy services via an existing North Ayrshire Council Consultancy Services Framework contract which was awarded in 2008 and is due to end in December 2012. The neighbouring authorities of East Ayrshire Council and South Ayrshire Council (and potentially East Renfrewshire Council) are also requiring to procure these services and in order to achieve best value for all participating Councils it is proposed to prepare and tender a single contract which can then be used by the participating Councils in relation to roads and related services. The new contract will cover the disciplines from the existing contract with the addition of flood engineering and coastal engineering. No equivalent contract is currently in place for this type of service with either Scotland Excel or the Scottish Procurement Directorate. It is anticipated that the annual spend across all partners will be in the order of £600k per year. East Ayrshire Council procurement unit have agreed to lead this project and are preparing the contract document and advising on the procurement process and timescales. North Ayrshire procurement team are fully involved in the project.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the tendering of a collaborative consultancy framework agreement for civil engineering and related specialist professional services.

## **25. Procurement Exercise: Supply of both Glass Reinforced Plastic (GRP) and PVC External Doors**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) on the procurement exercise undertaken for the supply of external doors.

On 9 of December 2011, an advert was placed in the Official Journal of the European Union for the procurement of supply of glass reinforced plastic (GRP) and PVC external doors, using the restricted procurement method. The contract period is three years with the option to extend for up to a further two years; extensions being offered in periods of one year. The estimated contract value is £150,000 per annum. The supply of these goods is not included within any Scotland Excel frameworks.

Sixteen companies expressed an interest on Public Contract Scotland for the supply contract; seven of whom completed and submitted a Pre Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ). Of the seven who returned the PQQs four companies were invited to tender. Tender submissions and sample products were returned by two of these companies and evaluated against minimum requirements being satisfied then assessed against a quality/price ratio of 30/70. The 30% allocated to quality reflects the importance attributed to product delivery and installation criteria such as the weight of the door and the ease of installation. The evaluation matrix and scores were contained in Appendix 1. The preferred supplier following evaluation is SBP Ltd trading as Permadoor.



The Cabinet agreed to award the contract for the supply of GRP and PVC external doors to SBP Ltd, trading as Permadoor.

The meeting ended at 4.20 p.m.