



North Ayrshire Council  
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

## North Ayrshire Council

A Meeting of North Ayrshire Council will be held remotely on **Wednesday, 11 November 2020** at **14:00** to consider the undernoted business.

### **Arrangements in Terms of COVID-19**

In light of the current COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting will be held remotely in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003. Where possible, the meeting will be live-streamed and available to view at <https://north-ayrshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>. In the event that live-streaming is not possible, a recording of the meeting will instead be available to view at this location.

#### **1 Armistice Day**

The Provost will call for a two-minute silence to mark Armistice Day.

#### **2 Apologies**

#### **3 Declarations of Interest**

Members are requested to give notice of any declarations of interest in respect of items of business on the Agenda.

#### **4 Previous Minutes**

The accuracy of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 September 2020 will be confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7(1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (copy enclosed).

#### **5 Provost's Report**

Submit report by the Provost for the period from 14 September - 1 November 2020 (copy enclosed).

- 6 Leader's Report**  
Submit report by the Leader of the Council for the period from 14 September - 1 November 2020 (copy enclosed).
- 7 Minute Volume (issued under separate cover)**  
Submit, for noting and for approval of any recommendations contained therein, the Minutes of Meeting of committees of the Council held in the period 22 June - 27 October 2020.
- 8 North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board: Minutes of Meeting held on 9 September 2020**  
Submit report by the Interim Executive Director (Communities) on the Minutes of the meeting of the North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership Board held on 9 September 2020 (copy enclosed).
- 9 Questions**  
In terms of Standing Order 12, submit:-

**(1) a question by Councillor Donald L. Reid to the Cabinet Member for Green New Deal and Sustainability in the following terms:**

“At the meeting of NAC on 12 February 2020 I asked a question about the state of minor roads surrounding Barkip which had been negatively impacted upon by work on the Den Realignment Project.

The written response advised: “Officers have been engaged with Transport Scotland’s contractor for the works, Interserve, throughout the A737 Den Realignment Project.

“I can confirm that repairs to the Auchengree Road and other minor roads will be carried out by Interserve and are planned to commence this week. The extent of the repairs and remedial measures, including resurfacing, localised reconstruction and verge repairs, has been agreed and will be undertaken at Interserve’s expense.”

As local Members for Ward 6 and 7 are only too aware, this work never actually took place nor indeed has any remedial work been carried out. The Auchengree to Highfield Road (U32) and Sandy Road (U53) have been described by local rural residents as “a lunar landscape.” Residents are rightly very unhappy at this situation. Indeed this road is now closed with “access only” conditions in place.

Can we have an explanation of what went wrong when no work was ever carried out to repair these roads and what is proposed to bring the U32 and U53 back into a useable condition with potential time-scales for this work? It would also be valuable to establish exactly who is in fact paying for this remedial work.

(PS I am fully aware of the work at Auchengree Bridge (U32) and the background)”

**(2) a question by Councillor Donald L. Reid to the Cabinet Member for Green New Deal and Sustainability in the following terms:-**

“I am very appreciative that NAC Roads Department have been proactive in trying to reduce the levels of flooding which regularly occurs in Main Street, Glengarnock, which often resulting in homes and businesses being flooded, even when the River Garnock and Powegree burn does not burst their banks.

Recent clearing of drains during September has clearly failed as the level of water build-up during heavy during October shows that the current drainage system is clearly not working effectively.

Residents are genuinely concerned by the level of recurring flooding. I would ask what steps NAC now propose to take to remedy this recurring flooding issue in Main Street, Glengarnock.”

**(3) a question by Councillor Donald L. Reid to the Cabinet Member for Green New Deal and Sustainability in the following terms:**

“The lack of public toilets in North Ayrshire is not a trivial issue. Many older people, pregnant women, those with various health issues and children find it difficult to enjoy our many excellent public amenities in North Ayrshire because public toilets are not readily available.

During the current covid-19 issue, many folk can no longer risk going out because of a lack of public toilets whilst some cafes and stores have temporarily closed their toilets to the public during the covid-19 emergency.

I believe public toilets are a key public health issue and should once again be a priority for this council. What plans are in place by NAC to look again at policy on the provision of public toilets and how many public toilets are currently open to the public in North Ayrshire and where are they located?”

**(4) a question by Councillor Donald L. Reid to the Cabinet Member for Green New Deal and Sustainability in the following terms:**

“Flooding at the rear entrance to Garnock Campus in heavy rain has been a recurring issue since the school was built. On 29 October 2020 pupils leaving the school had once again to wade through flood waters. Often pupils entering the school at the start of day have also to wade through flood water.

Can an update be provided on any proposed actions by NAC to rectify this unacceptable situation with a likely time-scale for work to be carried out?”

**(5) a question by Councillor Burns to the Cabinet Members for Green New Deal and Sustainability in the following terms:**

“Earlier this year, council agreed a budget proposal from the SNP group to fund the planting of 100,000 trees to assist with carbon sequestration and support our net zero emissions target. Can the portfolio holder confirm what steps have been taken to develop a strategy to take this work forward?”

**(6) a question by Councillor Billings to the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care in the following terms:**

“It was reported in a national newspaper last week that the routine testing of elderly people whilst in Ayrshire and Arran’s hospitals was stopped at the beginning of October, following guidance issued by civil servants in Edinburgh. It was some relief to read that the Health Board intended to restart testing from 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

Testing programmes are there to identify Covid infections and to help minimise the risk of an outbreak of infection. It, therefore, must have been quite a shock to the people of North Ayrshire to learn that official guidelines were to reduce testing in spite of rising Covid levels in Scotland. We need to ensure that everybody who uses our wonderful health service has the fullest confidence that whilst they are using the NHS they are being kept safe.

Would the Cabinet Member be able to obtain assurance from Ayrshire and Arran Health Board that the routine testing of elderly people whilst in Ayrshire and Arran’s hospitals has indeed restarted? Could he also provide assurance that no other routine testing, such as that for people being discharged into a care setting, and for residents and staff in care settings, was neither stopped nor reduced?”

**(7) a question by Councillor Glover to the Cabinet Member for Green New Deal and Sustainability in the following terms:**

“Does the Cabinet Member for Sustainability agree with me that there has been a knee jerk reaction by the Scottish Parliament in amending the 1987 Building (Scotland) Act and introducing new regulations regarding fire safety?”

Recently I have had numerous complaints from ward members particularly the elderly regarding leaflets they have received regarding the new regulations which require fire and smoke detection measures to be installed or completed by the end of February 2021. This leaflet bears the logo of the Scottish Parliament and is followed up by telephone calls telling members to pay £650 for the new appliances or risk getting a fine or not getting home insurance. This is then followed by another phonecall a few days later indicating that as most of their neighbours have signed with this company, they are now prepared to do a deal at £250 provided that the payment is immediate. I have taken this matter up with Graham Pollock trading standards at NAC and also the police fraud officer at Kilmarnock. Fire Scotland standard response to complaints is they refer the people to Scottish government website which details what is necessary either by hard wire or radio wifi. The website also suggests that the government is putting amendments through Parliament to extend the period from when the units are meant to be fitted from February 2021 to February 2022. Much distress has been caused to elderly residents in my ward and when both the building trade and the various fire authorities both say this target of February 2021 was impossible to meet I trust that All Members will advise their constituents not to pay any money to this company.”

**(8) a question by Councillor Montgomerie to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:**

"Why do we not have any Covid testing facilities within North Ayrshire?"

**(9) a question by Councillor Murdoch to the Chair of Planning in the following terms:**

“Does the Chair of Planning agree with Marine Scotland’s decision that the Oil Rig Decommissioning project site at Hunterston does require an Environmental Impact Assessment?”

**(10) a question by Councillor Murdoch to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:**

"Does the Leader of the Council think that the 22 Councillors outside the Cabinet and leading party are being consulted and allowed to contribute to Council business and raising items of scrutiny etc?"

**(11) a question by Councillor Murdoch to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:**

"Can the Leader of the Council please explain his idea or understanding of a transition to a greener economy?"

**10 Motions**

In terms of Standing Order 13, submit:-

**(1) a motion by Councillor Marshall, seconded by Councillor George, in the following terms:**

“The Scottish Government Hate Crime Bill has triggered a huge public backlash with an unprecedented 2000 submissions received by Hollywood Justice Committee in a call for views.

Top lawyers, police officers, actors, academics and others warned that the Bill will undermine freedom of speech and expression. The strength of opposition has forced the Scottish government to limit the offences to behaviour ‘intended to stir up hatred’ rather than ‘mainly being likely to do so.’

However a host of problems remain. The offences still cover “abusive “ behaviour which is not defined. They apply to conversations in the privacy of the home. Vital clauses to protect freedom of expression are either weak or not included at all.

The Roman Catholic Church in Scotland stated: “we do have outstanding concerns around the potential for misinterpretation, appropriate defences and the lack of equity in relation to the freedom of expression provisions.”

Police Scotland stated “a mature democratic and truly tolerant society should be able to negotiate robust and even rude and insulting public and social discourse without recourse to the criminal law.”

Comedian Rowan Atkinson commented “The bill could frustrate rational debate and discussion which has a fundamental role in society.”

Ian Murray of the Society of Editors said “the legislation still remains a threat to established principles of free speech...free speech provisions remain inadequate and it is still too low threshold for offending.”

We move that the Council write to Justice Secretary Humza Yousaf stating that :

1. As currently drafted the bill is a threat to free speech and requires to be radically reconstructed with Part 2 (on ‘stirring up hatred’) being deleted.
2. The absence of a “dwelling defence “could cause a person to be prosecuted for remarks made in the privacy of their own home but not heard by anyone outside and should be reinstated.
3. The lack of a “prosecution lock” meaning that prosecutions would require the consent of the Lord Advocate is essential to ensure that only serious cases are taken forward.”

**(2) a motion by Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Bell, in the following terms:**

"The Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) have described public sector pension funds as "reservoirs of local wealth" that could be invested to support Community Wealth Building.

Strathclyde Pension Fund is one of the largest pension funds in the UK with a fund exceeding £24billion in value but the fund does not do direct local investments that would invest in local and regional economies within the funds area.

The Council therefore agrees to:

1. Lobby Strathclyde Pension Fund for a proper direct local investment strategy; that invests in the local and regional economies that the funds members live and work; and invests in projects that provide a financial return to the fund whilst delivering wider economic and social benefits for communities across the funds area.
2. Support divestment of the fund through a direct local investment strategy.
3. Request a review of the Funds governance with the aim of ensuring that every local authority within the Funds region has an input on the operation of the fund.
4. Work with the other local authorities, non-local authority employers and trade unions across the Strathclyde Pension Fund area to support points 1,2 and 3."

**11 Urgent Items**

Any other items which the Chair considers to be urgent.

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## North Ayrshire Council Sederunt

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Ian Clarkson (Provost)  
Robert Barr (Depute Provost)  
John Bell  
Timothy Billings  
Joy Brahim  
Marie Burns  
Joe Cullinane  
Scott Davidson  
Anthea Dickson  
John Easdale  
Todd Ferguson  
Robert Foster  
Scott Gallacher  
Alex Gallagher  
Margaret George  
John Glover  
Tony Gurney  
Alan Hill  
Christina Larsen  
Shaun Macaulay  
Jean McClung  
Ellen McMaster  
Ronnie McNicol  
Louise McPhater  
Davina McTiernan  
Tom Marshall  
Jimmy Miller  
Jim Montgomerie  
Ian Murdoch  
Donald Reid  
Donald L Reid  
Angela Stephen  
John Sweeney

Chair:

Apologies:

Attending:

North Ayrshire Council  
23 September 2020

**23 September 2020** - At a Meeting of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

**Present**

Ian Clarkson, Robert Barr, John Bell, Timothy Billings, Joy Brahim, Marie Burns, Joe Cullinane, Scott Davidson, Anthea Dickson, John Easdale, Todd Ferguson, Robert Foster, Scott Gallacher, Alex Gallagher, Margaret George, John Glover, Tony Gurney, Alan Hill, Christina Larsen, Shaun Macaulay, Tom Marshall, Jean McClung, Ellen McMaster, Ronnie McNicol, Louise McPhater, Davina McTiernan, Jimmy Miller, Jim Montgomerie, Ian Murdoch, Donald Reid, Donald L. Reid, Angela Stephen and John Sweeney.

**In Attendance**

C. Hatton, Chief Executive; A. Sutton, Interim Executive Director (Communities); R. McCutcheon, Executive Director (Place); K. Yeomans, Director (Growth and Investment); C. Cameron, Head of Service (HSCP Finance and Transformation) (Health and Social Care Partnership); and M. Boyd Head of Finance, A. Fraser, Head of Democratic Services, A. Craig, Senior Manager (Legal Services); M. McColm, Senior Manager (Communications); E. Gray, A. Little and D. McCaw, Committee Services Officers and M. Anderson, Senior Manager (Committee and Member Services) (Chief Executive's Service).

**Chair**

Provost Clarkson in the Chair.

**1. Provost's Remarks**

The Provost welcomed those present to the meeting, which was proceeding with Members in attendance on a wholly remote basis by electronic means.

Due to a technical issue in respect of the remote meeting platform, the Provost then agreed, in terms of Standing Order 5.7, to adjourn the meeting to allow Officers to make arrangements for the meeting to resume using an alternative platform. The meeting reconvened at 2.30 p.m., with the same Members and Officers present and in attendance.

At 2.30 p.m., the Provost resumed his introductory remarks, dealing with preliminary matters, including an announcement that the meeting would be recorded. Given the virtual nature of the meeting, he then invited the Clerk to read the sederunt.

Thereafter, the Provost referred to the unprecedented circumstances which had led to the first virtual meeting of the Council. On behalf of the Council, he extended his condolences to those directly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. He expressed his appreciation for the resilience shown during the pandemic and thanked all North Ayrshire Council staff, communities and partners. The Provost then invited the Chief Executive to make some remarks.

The Chief Executive referred to the ongoing nature of the Covid-19 pandemic and the likelihood of continued restrictions over the next six months, expressing his condolences for those who had been directly affected by the virus. He described the Council's initial response to the pandemic to ensure that support was provided to those in need and essential services continued to be delivered. The Chief Executive then made reference to the ways in which the Council was working differently and would continue to be responsive, flexible and agile, concluding his remarks by expressing his appreciation for the work and resilience of Council staff, communities and volunteers.

## **2. Apologies**

The Provost invited intimation of apologies for absence. There were none.

## **3. Declarations of Interest**

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

There were no declarations of the Party Whip.

## **4. Previous Minutes**

The accuracy of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 12 February 2020 and the Special Meeting held on 5 March 2020 was confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7(1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

## **5. Provost's Report**

Submitted report by the Provost for the period from 3 February – 13 September 2020.

The Provost highlighted the following elements of his written report:

- attendance at a number of Burns events in February 2020;
- a reception hosted by the Consul General of Japan in Edinburgh and a Chinese New Year Celebration in Glasgow;
- the official opening of the WW100 Exhibition at Irvine Townhouse in March 2020;

- PoppyScotland's International Women's Day event in Kilmarnock;
- the cancellation/rescheduling of some events due to lockdown and changes to the way in which other events took place;
- the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory in Europe on 8 May 2020 and the Nation's Toast to the Heroes event;
- the staging of some Marymass Festival events online during August 2020; and
- Merchant Navy Day on 3 September 2020 and the flying of the Red Ensign outside Cunninghame House to honour seafarers who served their country.

Noted.

## **6. Leader's Report**

Submitted report by the Leader of the Council for the period for 3 February – 13 September 2020.

The Leader introduced his written report by expressing gratitude, on behalf of Elected Members, to all those Council workers who had kept constituents safe during the pandemic, citing a number of examples of work which had shown local government at its best. He also praised the Chief Executive and Emergency Management Team and thanked Members for their patience and support during the pandemic. The Leader concluded his remarks by stressing the need to continue to make public health a priority and referring to the Council's ambitious recovery and renewal plans.

Noted.

## **7. Council Minute Volume**

Submitted for noting and for approval of recommendations contained therein, the Minutes of meetings of committees of the Council held in the period 10 September 2019 – 8 September 2020.

Agreed.

## **8. Congratulatory Motion**

In terms of Standing Order 13.3, submitted the undernoted motion, duly proposed and seconded, which sought to congratulate, commend or recognise an individual or group in relation to their achievement or activities within North Ayrshire:

"February 2020 proved to be a remarkable month for Beith's Jemma Reekie, 21, who is an established middle-distance athlete in the British team. Her athletics career began at Beith Primary School and later developed at Garnock Academy.

Her recent achievements include:

- breaking Laura Muir's British record for the indoor mile in New York in February 2020, a week after taking half a second off her fellow Scot's 800m mark in Glasgow the first 1500m in 4:00.56 in New York;
- running 4:17.88 seconds at the Millrose Games in USA;
- the third fastest indoor mile behind Ethiopian great Genzebe Dibaba (4:13.31) and Romanian Doina Melinte (4:17.14) and nearly a second off Laura Muir's Birmingham time of 4:18.75 in February 2019;
- beating her training partner, Laura Muir, as she posted an 800m time of one minute 57.91; and
- winning double European under-23 gold in Sweden last year

Jemma Reekie is now potentially an Olympic medal contender with these outstanding performances. Jemma is regularly seen running through the streets of Beith and district on her daily training runs and has shown exception commitment and determination in her chosen sport.

North Ayrshire Council is very proud of Beith's Jemma Reekie, a fantastic athlete from North Ayrshire. The Council congratulates her on her recent record-breaking performances in middle-distance running at international level and wishes her well as she continues with her athletics career.”

There being no dissent, the motion was declared carried.

## **9. Appointment of Statutory Officers - Chief Finance Officer and Chief Planning Officer**

Submitted report by the Head of Democratic Services on the appointment of the Head of Service (Finance) as Chief Financial or Section 95 Officer, and the Senior Planning Services Manager as Chief Planning Officer, and to amend the Scheme of Delegation to Officers to reallocate functions previously delegated to the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support).

Members took the opportunity to refer to the recent retirement of Laura Friel as Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) and expressed their appreciation for her work over the years. The Provost undertook to write to Ms Friel on behalf of the Council.

The Council unanimously agreed as follows:

- (a) to approve the appointment of Mr Mark Boyd, Head of Service (Finance) as Chief Financial or Section 95 Officer in terms of Section 95 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973;

- (b) to note the appointment of Mr James Miller, Senior Manager (Planning) as interim Chief Planning Officer and to agree to appoint Mr Miller to the post of Chief Planning Officer when section 50 of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 is brought into force;
- (c) that the Financial Regulations are updated to refer to the appointment of the Head of Service (Finance) as Chief Financial or Section 95 Officer;
- (d) to amend the Scheme of Delegation to Officers to delegate functions previously delegated to the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) to the Heads of Service for Finance, People and ICT, and Recovery and Renewal as set out in section 2.3 of the report.

## **10. Review of Standing Orders for Contracts**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a review of the Standing Orders for Contracts. The revised Standing Orders were set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Head of Democratic Services advised of a minor typographical error within section 21.5 of the Appendix to the report, which referred to “23.8”, rather than to the 8<sup>th</sup> bullet point of section 23.

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

- the mechanism for Elected Members to receive assurance that the contracts procedure was being properly followed in future;
- the Council's positive Best Value Audit report and the need to ensure ongoing best value;
- the value of a Members' briefing on the detail of the proposed new provisions;
- the arrangements with regard to sensitive contracts where Members may wish more of an oversight;
- whether consultation had taken place with the Council's auditors with regard to the proposed changes;
- a recent Open Access Government report on the need for flexible procurement during Covid;
- the proposed frequency of reporting on procurement, including the role of the proposed annual report on procurement and the annual procurement strategy report;
- the Cabinet's consideration of the revised governance arrangements in respect of procurement;
- measures to support smaller local companies to bid for contracts and promote community wealth building; and
- the scrutiny of contracts

Officers undertook to arrange an Elected Member briefing session on procurement.

Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, moved that the Council approve the recommendations set out in the report.

As an amendment, Councillor Gurney, seconded by Councillor Glover, moved that the Council continue consideration of the report pending the provision of the Elected Member briefing session on procurement.

There then followed debate.

On a division and roll call vote, Councillor Brahim abstaining, there voted for the amendment Councillors Burns, Davidson, Glover, Gurney, Hill, Larsen, Macaulay, McClung, McMaster, McNicol, McTiernan and Murdoch (12) and for the motion, Councillors Barr, Bell, Billings, Clarkson, Cullinane, Dickson, Easdale, Ferguson, Foster, Gallacher, Gallagher, George, Marshall, McPhater, Miller, Montgomerie, Donald Reid, Donald L. Reid, Stephen and Sweeney (20), and the motion was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Council agreed to approve, with effect from 24 September 2020, the revised Standing Orders for Contracts, attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

On a point of order, Councillor Gurney queried the omission from the proceedings of an opportunity for the movers of the motion and amendment to sum up prior to the vote. It was noted that the Provost had asked if anyone wished to speak and no-one had so advised.

## **11. Treasury Management and Investment Annual Report 2019/2020**

Submitted report by the Head of Finance on the Treasury Management and Investment Annual Report and Prudential Indicators for 2019/20. The Annual Report was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Bell, moved that the Council approve the recommendations set out in the report. There being no amendment, the motion was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Council agreed to note (i) the Treasury Management and Investment Annual Report for 2019/20, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report and (ii) the Prudential and Treasury Indicators contained therein.

## **12. North Ayrshire Charitable Trusts: Unaudited Trustees' Annual Report 2019/20**

Submitted report by the Head of Finance to present the unaudited Trustees' Annual Report for the year to 31 March 2020 to the Council, as trustees, for approval. The Annual Report was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

Members asked questions on the following:

- the deficit referred to at Section 6 of the Trustees' Annual Report (Appendix 1);
- the Margaret Archibald Bequest referred to at Section 8 of the Notes to Financial Statements (Appendix 1);
- the status of a recent application to the Margaret Archibald Bequest; and
- the eligibility criteria for the North Ayrshire Charitable Trust

The Head of Service (Finance) undertook to provide more detailed information to Members on Section 6 of the Trustees' Annual Report and on the position with regard to the Margaret Archibald Bequest.

Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Foster, moved that the Council approve the recommendations set out in the report. There being no amendments, the motion was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Council, as trustees of the North Ayrshire Council Charitable Trusts, agreed to approve, subject to audit, the Trustees' Annual Report for the year to 31 March 2020 as set out at Appendix 1.

Following a query by Councillors Burns on the purpose of the "chat box" within the remote meetings platform, the Provost confirmed that this function did not form part of the meeting and should not be used by Members for discussion during the meeting.

### **13. Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland - Consultation on Review of North Ayrshire Ward Boundaries**

Submitted report by the Head of Democratic Services on the Council's response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland's consultation on the review of North Ayrshire ward boundaries. The Commission's final proposals were set out at Appendix 1 to the report. Appendix 2 provided an illustration of the effects of the proposals.

The Head of Democratic Services made reference to a minor typographical error within Section 3.1.5 of the report with regard to the recommendations relating to the North Coast, namely "to support the Commission's proposals for a 5 Member ward. In the event that Council wish to consider a two-ward solution, the proposal for two 3 Member wards is the better option". Members were asked to note that the reference to "two three Member wards" should have read "a four and a two Member ward".

Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Bell, moved that the Council agree to respond in support of the Boundary Commission proposals, subject to the amendment of the North Coast/Garnock Valley boundary mentioned in the report.

As an amendment, Councillor Barr, seconded by Councillor Donald L Reid, moved that that Council approve the recommendations set out in the officer's report, subject to the following:

“Ardrossan goes to two councillors and the Garnock Valley retains six councillors”.

As a further amendment, Councillor Billings, seconded by Councillor Ferguson, moved that the Council approve the recommendations set out in the report, subject to the following:

“Section 3 – item 3.1.4 – delete the current wording and replace with:

Arran – it is recommended that Council supports Arran as a 2-Member ward, which would provide the residents of Arran with a greater diversity to its representation, give continuity during periods of a Member's absence, and improve public access to Members across Arran's large rural areas. The Council does note the arguments in favour of a 1-Member ward, therefore, the Commission should have regard to responses from the Arran community in reply to the second public stage of consultation.”

In terms of Standing Order 5.7, the Provost agreed that the meeting be adjourned at 4.35 p.m. for a comfort break. The meeting reconvened at 5.00 p.m. with the same Members and officers present and in attendance, with the exception of Councillor Davidson.

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

- clarification that Councillor Cullinane's motion sought to align the boundary between the Garnock Valley and North Coast along the watershed boundary of these Localities;
- in terms of the implications for the boundary between the North Coast and Cumbraes and the Garnock Valley; and
- the position in relation to ward presentation for Stevenston, particularly in the context of deprivation

There then followed debate and summing up.

On a division and roll call vote, there voted for the amendment, Councillors Barr, Glover and Donald L. Reid (3) and for the motion, Councillors Bell, Billings, Brahim, Burns, Clarkson, Cullinane, Dickson, Easdale, Ferguson, Foster, Gallacher, Gallagher, George, Gurney, Hill, Larsen, Marshall, Macaulay, McClung, McMaster, McNicol, McPhater, McTiernan, Miller, Montgomerie, Murdoch, Donald Reid, Stephen and Sweeney (29), and the motion became the substantive motion.

On a further division and roll call vote, there voted for the further amendment, Councillors Billings, Ferguson, Gallacher, George, Glover, Marshall, Donald L. Reid and Stephen (8), and for the substantive motion, Councillors Barr, Bell, Brahim, Burns, Clarkson, Cullinane, Dickson, Easdale, Foster, Gallagher, Gurney, Hill, Larsen, Macaulay, McClung, McMaster, McNicol, McPhater, McTiernan, Miller, Montgomerie, Murdoch, Donald Reid and Sweeney (24), and the substantive motion was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Council agreed to respond in support of the Boundary Commission proposals, subject to the amendment of the North Coast/Garnock Valley boundary mentioned in the report.

#### **14. Best Value Assurance Report: North Ayrshire Council (2020)**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the findings of the Best Value Review of North Ayrshire Council. The Best Value Assurance Report was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the lack of Best Value report recommendations in respect of matters referred to within the report, namely around Education and arrangements for the appointment of Chief Officers.

Members took the opportunity to express their appreciation of the hard work of the Council's management team and workforce in achieving such a positive Best Value report.

The Council unanimously agreed as follows:

- (a) to note (i) the good progress since the last Best Value Audit in 2011, (ii) the key messages and recommendations arising from the Best Value Review and (iii) the proposed Action Plan for implementing further improvements; and
- (b) to receive further updates as improvement work progresses.

#### **15. Committee Timetable 2021**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a proposed committee timetable for 2021, for consideration by the Council. The draft timetable was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Head of Democratic Services drew Members' attention to Section 2.6 of the report and to the likelihood that meetings of the Council and its committees would continue to take place remotely for the earlier part of 2021.

The Council unanimously agreed as follows:

- (a) to approve the committee timetable for 2021 set out in Appendix 1 to the report; and
- (b) to note (i) that the dates for meetings referred to at Section 2 of the report were subject to confirmation separately, in addition to those for any ad hoc committees and Special Meetings which may be required over the course of the year and (ii) assumptions about the likely format of meetings, as set out at Section 2.6 of the report.

## **16. Questions**

In terms of Standing Order 12, submitted:

- (1) a question by Councillor Burns to the Cabinet Member for Green New Deal and Sustainability in the following terms:

“What plans are in place to begin work on the next Local Development Plan?”

Councillor Montgomerie thanked the Member for her question and responded in the following terms:

“The programme to prepare the next Local Development Plan is set out in the Development Plan Scheme which was approved by the Planning Committee at its Virtual Meeting on 24 June 2020.

The programme is predicated on LDP3 being prepared under new Scottish Government regulations and guidance which, when published, will bring into force significant changes to the development planning system as enacted by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019.

Local planning authorities are required to update their Development Plan Scheme annually. Changes to the programme for preparing Local Development Plan 3 may be required in light of delays caused by COVID-19, including the Scottish Government’s programme of work to progress the new development planning regulations. Meanwhile, the Council’s LDP 3 programme of work will focus on updating the evidence base to inform the new plan including land supply audits for housing and industry, town centre audits, etc. A new Development Plan Scheme will be prepared next year that will update on the process and timelines for LDP3 taking account all of the above.”

As a supplementation question, Councillor Burns asked for an assurance that work of the next Local Development Plan would include a process for fully engaging with communities and Locality Partnerships.

Councillor Montgomerie replied in the affirmative.

(2) a question by Councillor Barr to the Leader of the Council, in the following terms:

"I believe that during the lockdown N.A.C purchased the Kings Hotel in Irvine to turn it into flats. If this is true does the leader think it is good value for the taxpayer."

Councillor Cullinane thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:

"Yes, I do believe it represents value for money and it provides a social return.

This is a large building, situated in the heart of one of our town centres, that has lain empty for years and over time its condition has deteriorated significantly.

It wasn't attracting any interest from prospective buyers, and therefore, without council intervention it would have continued to remain empty.

The owner, on this occasion, was willing to sell to the Council, and in fact sold the building below the calculated market value.

Using the SHIP to purchase and develop the property into town centre housing, which will assist with the regeneration of the town, means we will attract Scottish Government grant, whilst the rest of the funding will come from the Affordable Housing Account – meaning there has been no contribution from the Council's general fund towards this project.

The story of privately-owned buildings being left to deteriorate is repeated across most of our towns. The purchase of the Kings Arms, with the intention of converting the building to council housing, is a success story that represents a model that could be replicated in other areas.

Indeed, without prematurely answering question 5 on today's agenda from Cllr Murdoch, the same principle has been used in the purchase of the former Police Station building in Largs, the purchase of which was concluded on the day we entered lockdown, and will form a second phase of the housing development currently underway at St Colm's Place, Largs

In fact, those eagle-eyed members who read the Cabinet papers will have noted that the recent Economic Recovery and Renewal Approach report contained the following as an action:

*Tackling vacant and derelict land and buildings in our town centres by investing in town centre living;*

Our approach to that will be set out in a new Regeneration Delivery Plan, which will embed our Community Wealth Building ambitions to maximise our land and assets.

The Delivery Plan, which is currently in draft form, will be subject to community engagement as well as an item on a future Policy Advisory Panel.

Can I thank the member again for his question and for giving me the opportunity to present our ambitions on this key issue for our communities.

I am sure every member of the Council will welcome the model that has been developed through the Kings Arms project and will be looking forward to seeing our Regeneration Delivery Plan in due course.”

As a supplementary question, Councillor Barr asked why no action had been taken in respect of a Council-owned building at the bottom of Bank Street, Irvine, which had remained empty for a number of years.

Councillor Cullinane responded by advising that the Regeneration Delivery Plan would include proposals to convert the building in question into town centre living, bringing another empty building back into productive use.

(3) a question by Councillor Dickson to the Cabinet Member for New Deal and Sustainability in the following terms:

“What actions have been undertaken by the Council and the Safer North Ayrshire Partnership to improve matters for residents since my motion seeking limitations on fireworks presented at the full council meeting of 13 Nov 19?”

Councillor Montgomerie thanked the Member for her question and responded in the following terms:

“The Scottish Government’s Fireworks Action Plan was published in October last year and identified a number of areas where improvements could be made. Subsequently a Scottish Fireworks Review Group was established to make recommendations to the Scottish Ministers in relation to the devolved matters concerning fireworks and to work with the Westminster Parliament on those which were still reserved. North Ayrshire Council will implement any guidance or legislation resulting from this review.

The Safer North Ayrshire Partnership has an integrated programme in place as its response to firework arrangements. The annual plan will be refined at the initial ‘Operation Moonbeam’ meeting, where shared priorities and resources will be reviewed in the lead-up to the event. The following key arrangements will be considered:

- Gathering and sharing of local intelligence
- As there are no approved displays this year, the focus will be on highlighting fire safety and removal of any apparent bonfire fuel which is gathering; this involves ongoing communication across the partnership at a local level
- Joint messaging across the partnership highlighting fire safety, approved displays and antisocial behaviour

- Joint delivery of information sessions in local schools where it is deemed necessary
- Arrangements for special uplifts of materials such as furniture and other flammable items – Scottish Fire & Rescue (SF&R) and Police Scotland have a direct number to ensure any flammable waste or would-be bonfire material is collected immediately. This is supported by Police Scotland who will accompany Council Officers to ensure safety.
- In the lead up to the event Council Officers and SF&R undertake joint inspections of firework retailer premises to ensure compliance.”

As a supplementary question, Councillor Dickson referred to increased risk, given the Covid-19 restrictions on public gatherings (and thus public displays), of impromptu displays and individuals setting off fireworks, and asked whether the actions described were likely to have any impact or if the Council should be seeking a change to UK fireworks legislation.

Councillor Montgomerie responded by advising that he would put this matter on the Agenda for the next Safer North Ayrshire Partnership meeting.

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

"Does the Chair of Planning agree with Marine Scotland's decision that the Oil Rig Decommissioning project site at Hunterston does require an Environmental Impact Assessment?"

Councillor Marshall thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:

“Marine Scotland determined that the works which required a Marine License, namely dredging, required an EIA under the Regulations. The Council, as Planning Authority, considered the land-based works, which required planning permission, and found that those works did not require an EIA under the Regulations relating to Planning. The Scottish Government determined that the Council's approach was valid. In response to a request by a resident for a screening opinion to be undertaken by the Government, in a letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019, the Scottish Government was “satisfied that the issues raised do not call into question the validity of the view reached by the Planning Authority that EIA is not required. Ministers are content that the process undertaken by the Council and Marine Scotland has been sufficiently robust to allow them to reach their opinions, and that due process has been followed with regards to the seeking and obtaining of a Screening Opinion for the project.”

As a supplementary question, Councillor Murdoch referred again to his original question and asked what lessons North Ayrshire Council had learned from this matter.

Councillor Marshall responded by asserting that the Planning department had performed its duties as required by statute and clarified that its remit related to works above the high-water mark, with Marine Scotland having responsibility for those below the high-water mark. Councillor Marshall advised that he was content that both agencies had performed properly.

(5) a question by Councillor Murdoch to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:

"Can the Leader of the Council please give details of all of the land or property which has been purchased by North Ayrshire Council during 2020, particularly under delegated powers?"

Councillor Cullinane thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:

"The following properties have been purchased in 2020 under delegated powers exercised by officers:

1. 2 Main Street, Kilbirnie for regeneration. Purchase price £22,500; date of entry 6 January 2020.
2. Ground to rear of 33-43 Main Street, Largs for car park. Purchase price £55,000; date of settlement 2 March 2020.
3. Ground (0.12 acre) at Stanley Primary School for car park. Purchase price £27,200; date of entry 2 July 2020.

The following properties were purchased for provision of housing using delegated authority:

1. 12 Grange Court, Stevenston. Purchase price £30,000; date of entry 28 February 2020.
2. Former Police Station, Court Street, Largs. Purchase price £175,000; date of entry 23 March 2020.
3. Kings Arms Hotel, 113 High Street, Irvine. Purchase price £130,000 + VAT (£26,000); date of entry 30 April 2020.
4. 12 Ninian's Terrace, Ardrossan. Purchase price £34,500; date of entry 7 May 2020
5. 113 Chapelhill Mount, Ardrossan. Purchase price £37,500; date of entry 7 August 2020

All of the foregoing properties were purchased in terms of delegated authority granted by Council under the existing Scheme of Delegation to Officers, approved in September 2019.

The car park at New Street Stevenston was purchased after the Compulsory Purchase process was approved by Council on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018. The purchase was completed by agreement on 20 January 2020 without the need for concluding the compulsory purchase process. Purchase price £32,000; compensation for injurious affection/severance £86,000.

The Council also purchased a 50% share in the Ardrossan North Shore Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) from Peel Land and Property (Ardrossan) Limited which has resulted in the Council having full ownership of the LLP which owns the site upon which the Ardrossan Community Campus will be built. The land belonging to the LLP is to be transferred to NAC and thereafter the LLP will be dissolved. This decision was taken by the Chief Executive under delegated powers on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2020 following consultation with Group Leaders and Councillor McNicol (Nominated Independent Member representative), with comments from all Members also having been invited. The price paid was £925,000 and the date of settlement was 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020. The decision was reported to Cabinet on 30 June 2020.”

As a supplementary question, Councillor Murdoch asked whether the former Police Station in Largs would be used as part of the redevelopment of St Colms Place.

Councillor Cullinane responded by confirming that this was the intention, clarifying that the timing of the sale meant that it would require to form part of a second phase of redevelopment.

(6) a question by Councillor Murdoch to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:

“Can the Leader of the Council please give details of the £23.5 million pounds expenditure on Covid-19. Where did the money come from and were all of the costs incurred under delegated powers?”

Councillor Cullinane thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:

“The projected gross additional cost impact of COVID to 31 March 2021 is £23.5m. This includes costs associated with various Council funding streams i.e. General fund revenue, general fund capital and the Housing revenue account. The net projected cost impact after applying Scottish Government funding is £15.475m, of which £9.6m relates to General Fund Revenue. The areas of expenditure incurred include costs associated with the food response, PPE, workforce costs and costs related to the Education recovery. In addition to this, lost income has a significant impact on Council budgets. A report to Cabinet on 30 June 2020 outlined the projected financial impact and the requirement to develop a Finance Recovery Plan. This was subsequently developed and approved at Cabinet on 8 September 2020. This outlines the measures required to return a balanced budget in 2020/21 with the key priorities of protecting jobs, priority services and mitigating the impact on the 2021/22 Budget. The plan includes a potential draw on Council reserves of around £3m. The financial position will continue to be monitored throughout the year, along with any further funding.

In terms of the reference to whether all the £23.5m costs were incurred under delegated powers, the answer is no, for several reasons. Firstly, the figure of £23.5m is projected additional cost, so not all of this has yet been incurred. A significant proportion also relates to lost income, rather than expenditure. It should also be noted that on 5 March 2020 Council, as part of its decision to set the budget, agreed to retain unallocated reserves of 2% or £7.159m. The purpose of maintaining such a reserve is to retain capacity to deal with unexpected emergencies, such as the current pandemic. Therefore, while the Council’s Scheme of Delegation already allows the Chief Executive to deal with any urgent issues, howsoever arising, subject to reporting back to Cabinet at the first available opportunity, no such decision has yet been required to authorise expenditure. Based on the measures outlined in the Finance Recovery Plan, the level of unearmarked reserves is sufficient to meet the anticipated liabilities in 2020/21.”

(7) a question by Councillor Murdoch to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:

"Are the five North Ayrshire Council Elected Members on the Hunterston SSG there to represent North Ayrshire Council, their constituents or are they acting as individuals?"

Councillor Cullinane thanked the Member for his question. Thereafter, following a temporary loss of the Leader's electronic connection, the Provost requested that the Senior Manager (Committee and Member Services) read out Councillor Cullinane's written response as follows:

"After the election in 2017, the Head of Democratic Services provided training and guidance to Members about their role when appointed to serve on outside bodies. The position of the Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group is no different to that of other bodies on which councillors serve. When serving on any outside body, a Member's duty is to promote the objectives of that outside body. For this reason, Members serving on any outside body should familiarise themselves with the Constitution (or Memorandum and Articles if a company, or trust deed if a trust), to ensure they are clear as to the body's objectives.

In this case, the objective of the Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group is to monitor operations, on the sites Hunterston A and B. More specifically, the Group has the following roles and purposes, namely:

- Acting as a channel of communication between the local community, Magnox Ltd and /EDF(the Operators);
- Facilitating exchange of views and information among the local community, the Operators and those statutory regulating authorities having responsibility for nuclear installations;
- Receiving reports from the Operators and regulatory authorities;
- Scrutinising all emergency and environmental plans to the Hunterston operation;
- Facilitating contact between the local community and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) including receiving reports from the NDA on their scrutiny of Magnox Ltd

When serving on an outside body, Members are not there to promote the Council's interests, or their personal, Party or constituents' views. In many cases, particularly where a Member is motivated by what they believe is best for the community, such views will align with the outside body's objectives. However, if in all honesty a Member feels they cannot promote the purposes of the Outside Body, they should declare an interest in the item under discussion and take no part in it. If a Member feels they are having to repeatedly declare an interest because of interests which don't align with the outside body's objectives, they need to consider whether they should remain a Member of that body. The Councillors Code of Conduct gives more guidance on declarations of interest.

Should any Member wish further advice or training on this issue, the Head of Democratic Services is happy to provide further training, either on an individual or Teams basis."

(8) a question by Councillor Murdoch to the Cabinet Member for Post Covid Renewal in the following terms:

"Will North Ayrshire Council continue to support the Millport Town Hall project?"

Councillor Gallagher thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms (which differed from those published in advance of the meeting):

"Every action of this Council, our Council officers, this Administration, the Cabinet and myself personally and as Portfolio Holder for Islands and Chair of the LPP has been in support of the Millport Town Hall project.

Council officers also gave advice and support to the Committee regarding the successful alienation from Millport Common Good, the Community Asset Transfer process, Business Planning, Grant funding applications to North Ayrshire Ventures Trust (NAVt), the Community Development Fund, advice and support regarding the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund and the CARS and Town Centre Funds.

Here are a number of direct quotes from the Town Hall Group

*"We have been absolutely delighted with the work we have been able to do in conjunction with NAC*

*"The new NAC Community Wealth Building Initiative will be applicable with our approach ...*

*".an application has been submitted with a seven figure number to the Scottish Government with NAC citing it as their number one priority, an application which would enable us to start phase one work on a project."*

*on achieving a grant from NAVt a representative of the charity behind the Millport Town Hall plans, said "This is fantastic news and we really appreciate this support.*

*"The Council's Community Investment Fund has already committed £200,000 to supporting phase 4 of the project ..... We are grateful for an extension of the original deadline for this funding which has been necessitated by the delay caused by COVID - 19."*

Just last week the Cabinet agreed to extend a bridging loan to the Town Hall group. This decision was in the Cabinet minute and demonstrates our unwavering commitment to the project.

This is a large project requiring grants and funding from a number of sources. These sources will want to know that the project has the support of the council and ward councillors. In questioning the project in this way, Cllr Murdoch is bringing doubt on the project and therefore putting at risk the grants and funding needed to finance the Town Hall regeneration, potentially damaging the project.”

(9) a question by Councillor Murdoch for the Cabinet Member for Post-Covid Renewal in the following terms:

“At the Council meeting held on Wednesday 25th September 2019, I asked if anyone at North Ayrshire Council had enquired either verbally or in writing regarding the availability or procurement of between 70 & 100,000 tonnes of dredged sand from the sea bed at Hunterston and if so what was it to be used for? I asked a similar version of the question again at the Full Council meeting held on Wednesday 12th February 2020.

Does the Member for the Economy still have the same view that no Officer or Councillor made an enquiry regarding the procurement of sand from the seabed at Hunterston?”

The Leader of the Council advised that, following the refresh of Cabinet roles, this question fell within his own portfolio. He thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:

“No officer verbally enquired or in writing.

Council Officers are aware that as part of proposed works to the dry dock at Hunterston, that dredging would be required. This has not been carried out. It is common for such material to be used for other purposes, rather than land-filled. However, the material has not been dredged, is not available and the Council is not aware of any proposals to re-use such material, or the location where it might be deposited.”

As a supplementary question, Councillor Murdoch asked whether Councillor Gallagher or the Leader had seen the Minutes of the Hunterston Liaison Committee meeting of 10 September 2019 or 13 May 2020 as they related to this matter.

Councillor Cullinane responded by advising that an Internal Audit investigation instructed by the Chief Executive had found no evidence of an officer enquiry either verbally or in writing. The Leader asked Councillor Murdoch to submit any evidence he may have to the contrary, rather than continuing to submit questions at Council in this manner.

Councillor McNicol lost his connection to the meeting prior to the following item of business and effectively left the meeting at this point.

## 17. Motions

In terms of Standing Order 13, submitted:

- (1) a Motion proposed by Councillor Miller and seconded by Councillor Foster in the following terms:

“Council reiterates its opposition to the removal of the TV licence from over 75’s; believes that the timing of its removal, coming during a global pandemic which has seen older people isolated because of ‘shielding’ guidance, is callous; and agrees that the Chief Executive should write again to the UK Government to express this Council’s opposition to the removal.”

In terms of Standing Order 14.5, and with the agreement of his seconder, Councillor Miller advised of an amendment to the terms of his motion to insert the word “free” prior to the words “TV licence”.

Members asked questions and, in terms of Standing Order 14.5, the mover and seconder of the motion agreed that it be further amended to require that the Chief Executive should write to the UK Government and to the BBC.

There being no amendment, the motion, as revised, was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Council agreed as follows:

“Council reiterates its opposition to the removal of the free TV licence from over 75’s; believes that the timing of its removal, coming during a global pandemic which has seen older people isolated because of ‘shielding’ guidance, is callous; and agrees that the Chief Executive should write again to the UK Government and to the BBC to express this Council’s opposition to the removal.”

Councillor Glover lost his connection to the meeting prior to the following item of business and effectively left the meeting at this point.

- (2) a Motion by Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Cullinane, in the following terms:

"Council notes the announcement that Hunterston B power station will cease operation two years earlier than previously announced; expresses concern that, despite having known for years that the operation would end, there remains no detailed and funded proposal for alternative employment at Hunterston; believes that Hunterston is a strategic site of national economic importance to Scotland and the UK that should be given such status within NPF4; that the site has all the attributes to contribute to the transition to a greener economy; that energy generation should be part of the planned future use of the site; and therefore calls for the creation of a ministerial taskforce to accelerate development at Hunterston through the Ayrshire Growth Deal."

As an amendment, Councillor Dickson, seconded by Councillor Larsen, moved that the Council approve the terms of the motion, subject to the following amendment:

“End the motion at ‘Hunterston’ and remove “through the Ayrshire Growth Deal”.

In terms of Standing Order 14.5, the mover and seconder of the motion were invited to alter the terms of the motion to reflect the amendment but declined to do so. The amendment was then withdrawn by its mover and seconder following confirmation from the mover of the motion that there was no intention to redirect monies from the Ayrshire Growth Deal.

As a further amendment, Councillor Gurney, seconded by Councillor McMaster, moved that the Council approve the terms of the motion, subject to the following:

“Insert after “proposal” the words “from the Administration””

As a further amendment, Councillor Hill, seconded by Councillor Burns, moved that the Council approve the terms of the motion, subject to the following:

“Insert after “that” in line 8 “all possible uses including but not restricted to””

In terms of Standing Order 14.5, the mover and seconder of the motion agreed to amend their motion to reflect the terms of Councillor Hill’s amendment. The amendment in question was then withdrawn with the agreement of its mover and seconder.

There followed debate and summing up.

Thereafter, on a division and roll call vote, there voted for the remaining amendment by Councillor Gurney, seconded by Councillor McMaster, Councillors Brahim, Burns, Dickson, Gurney, Hill, Larsen, Macaulay, McClung, McMaster, McTiernan and Murdoch (11), and for the revised motion by Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Cullinane, Councillors Barr, Bell, Billings, Clarkson, Cullinane, Easdale, Ferguson, Foster, Gallacher, Gallagher, George, Marshall, McPhater, Miller, Montgomerie, Donald Reid, Donald L. Reid, Stephen and Sweeney (19), and the revised motion was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Council agreed as follows:

"Council notes the announcement that Hunterston B power station will cease operation two years earlier than previously announced; expresses concern that, despite having known for years that the operation would end, there remains no detailed and funded proposal for alternative employment at Hunterston; believes that Hunterston is a strategic site of national economic importance to Scotland and the UK that should be given such status within NPF4; that the site has all the attributes to contribute to the transition to a greener economy; that all possible uses of the site including, but not restricted to, energy generation should form part of the planned future use of the site; and therefore calls for the creation of a ministerial taskforce to accelerate development at Hunterston through the Ayrshire Growth Deal."

The meeting ended at 7.15 p.m.



# PROVOST'S REPORT

For the period covering: 14 September 2020 – 1  
November 2020

The attached report gives a summary and brief details to Council, of meetings and events attended by the Provost of North Ayrshire Council, Councillor Ian Clarkson.



# PROVOST'S REPORT

For the period covering: 14 September 2020 – 1 November 2020

Since the last meeting of the Council I have taken part in a number of events, including:

## ***Irvine Burns Club, “Burns and Slavery”, 23 September***

On 23 September, I joined members of Irvine Burns Club for an online talk by Professor Gerry Carruthers on “Burns and Slavery”. Professor Carruthers is Chair of Scottish Literature at the University of Glasgow and the principal investigator for the “Editing Burns for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century project. I thoroughly enjoyed the evening and Professor Carruthers’ excellent presentation. It is also heartening to see organisations, such as Irvine Burns Club diversifying during these difficult times by meeting online.

## ***71<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the People’s Republic of China, Online Celebration, 28 September***

On 28 October, I attended an online celebration on the 71st Anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China. The event which featured musical performances and presentations was hosted by the Chinese Ambassador and attended by many.

## ***Meeting with Chief Superintendent Hussain, 1 October***

On 1 October, the Leader of the Council and I met online with Chief Superintendent Hussain from PoliceScotland. This was an introductory meeting where Chief Superintendent Hussain explained his desire to work with Local Authorities to improve Ayrshire. He has also issued a survey to Councils asking what else Police could be doing to help tackle issues prevalent in their areas. We were also updated on some of PoliceScotland’s current work and operations in and around Ayrshire and we look forward to continuing working in partnership.

## ***Ayrshire Hospice, Go Purple Day, 9 October***

Go Purple for Ayrshire Hospice took place on 9 October. We were unable to take part to the level we have done before, but I was delighted to see many of our schools taking part and raising funds for this worthwhile cause. It is becoming increasingly difficult for charities during the pandemic to raise funds and I am only too happy to help wherever I can to support these organisations during these challenging times.



### ***Baby Loss Awareness Week, 9 -15 October***

I was happy to support Ayrshire SANDS (Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Charity), by lighting up Saltcoats Town Hall and the Portal pink and blue during Baby Loss Awareness Week which took place from 9-15October.

Led by SANDS, the Baby Loss Awareness Alliance is a collaboration of more than 90 charities working together to break the taboo and to drive tangible improvements in policy, bereavement care and support for anyone affected by the death of a baby.

### ***2020 Scottish Poppy Appeal, Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh, 28 October***

On 28 October, I was delighted to attend the 2020 Scottish Poppy Appeal reception hosted by the Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, The Rt Hon. Ken Macintosh MSP.

The 2020 Scottish Poppy Appeal will be amongst the most challenging and most important in its 99-year history. At the virtual reception we heard more about how PoppyScotland are adapting their vital services, the Poppy Appeal and other year-round activities which ensure our Armed Forces community receive the support they urgently need.

### ***Irvine Burn's Club, Online Event, Irvine, 28 October***

On 28 October, I joined Irvine Burns Club once again for another online event. This time around the speaker was Dr Rhona Brown and her topic was "The Two Roberts - Burns and Fergusson".

Rhona was born in New Cumnock and studied at Strathclyde and Glasgow Universities. Rhona is currently Senior Lecturer in 18th century Scottish Literature at Glasgow University. She is President of the John Galt Society and is an expert on Robert Fergusson. Rhona's publications include "Robert Fergusson and the Scottish Periodical Press".

This was a very enjoyable evening and well-attended.

### ***Remembrance Sunday***

As Provost and North Ayrshire's Veterans Champion, I called on North Ayrshire residents to remember by joining a nationwide two-minute silence from the safety of their own home. While it's disappointing that there will be no official public ceremonies this year on Remembrance Sunday, it is for a very good reason. However, just because we can't join in one place, doesn't mean we can't pay tribute to the fallen in our own way. Although we may be apart from each other physically, we can still participate in a joint show of respect and support.

PROVOST'S REPORT



*Ian Clarkson*

Councillor Ian Clarkson  
**Provost North Ayrshire Council**



North Ayrshire Council  
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

# LEADER'S REPORT

For the period covering: 14 September – 1  
November 2020

The attached report gives a summary and brief details to Council, of meetings and events attended by the Leader of North Ayrshire Council, Councillor Joe Cullinane.



# LEADER'S REPORT

For the period covering: 14 September – 1 November 2020

## ***AYRSHIRE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD AND ECONOMIC JOINT COMMITTEE, 14 September***

On 14 September I attended the Ayrshire Economic Partnership Board Meeting followed by the Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee where Board members received updates on progression of various projects included in our Ayrshire Growth Deal Programme.

The signing off of the Ayrshire Growth Deal is an important step in the region's recovery from the economic impact caused by Covid-19, which has resulted in a large part of our regional economy closed for business therefore affecting jobs and investment in the business sector across the region.

Evidence emerging since lockdown began suggests that there are various sectors and themes critical to supporting the recovery and renewal of the Ayrshire economy. These include:

- Advance Manufacturing
- Aerospace/Space
- Clean Growth
- Community Wealth Building
- Food and Drink
- Life Sciences
- Visitor Economy
- Business
- Digital Connectivity
- Innovation
- Skills

The development of detailed actions and subsequent delivery of themes will be framed through a Community Wealth Building approach that seeks to harness assets, resources, community strength and relationships within Ayrshire to deliver improved outcomes for our communities.

I am also pleased to report that at the meeting of the Ayrshire Economic Partnership Board it was agreed that East and South Ayrshire Councils would sign up to our Community Wealth Building Anchor Charter. The Charter commits all the big public anchor institutions (the three Ayrshire Councils, NHS Ayrshire and Arran, Ayrshire College and Scottish Enterprise) to using their power as procurement buyers, employers and landowners to improve the Ayrshire



economy. This is a big moment in our Community Wealth Building journey, and I look forward to them all helping build and retain local wealth in Ayrshire.

### ***ARDROSSAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST, 15 September***

On 15 September, I gave a Community Wealth Building briefing to members of the Ardrossan Community Development Trust. The briefing outlined the CWB strategy and how this affects our community groups. My thanks to Julie McLachlan, our Senior Manager in North Ayrshire Council for participating in this with me and for her continued hard work and commitment in driving forward our Community Wealth Building strategy.

### ***CENTRE FOR LOCAL ECONOMIC STRATEGIES - COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING IN NORTHERN IRELAND EVENT, 16 September***

I was delighted to take part an event hosted by Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) for those interested in Community Wealth Building in Northern Ireland, sharing our story of how North Ayrshire Council has become the first local authority in Scotland to adopt Community Wealth Building. This seminar was for third sector organisations and local government officers and enabled them to hear how the Northern Irish economy can be rebuilt post-Covid through the principles of Community Wealth Building.

### ***INCLUSIVE GROWTH NETWORK LAUNCH, 17 September***

Together with other Council Leaders throughout the UK, I was asked to take part in an Inclusive Growth Network Launch hosted by the Centre for Progressive Policy. The event provided the opportunity for politicians and expert speakers to discuss the role for local leadership in spearheading the shift to an inclusive economy through the process of recovery from Covid-19.

### ***SCOTLAND EXCEL SUB COMMITTEE MEETING, 18 September***

On 18 September, having been recently appointed to represent North Ayrshire Council on the Scotland Excel Committee, I took part in my first Sub Committee meeting. I look forward to working with Scotland Excel in the months ahead, particularly on how Scotland Excel can embed Community Wealth Building into their frameworks.

### ***COSLA LEADERS, 25 September***

I attended COSLA Leaders on 25 September where Leaders discussed a UK Government consultation paper on Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children, an update on the UK Internal Market Bill post Brexit and national protocol for handling cases and outbreaks of Covid-19.



Leaders also heard more about the Digital Boost Programme, following Scottish Government approval to increase funding by £1.5m for the Digital Boost Programme. (£1.63m to £3.13m.) The paper sets out a pilot approach for grant funding to test small business need and adoption of new technologies and proposed options for the dispersal of funds to local authorities.

### ***COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING COMMISSION, 25 September***

On 25 September the Community Wealth Building (CWB) Commission met once again and I am delighted to say we were joined by the Leaders of East Ayrshire Council and South Ayrshire Council, Councillor Douglas Reid and Councillor Peter Henderson, for the first time. This means that we can continue to build on our Community Wealth Building efforts for the benefit of Ayrshire as a whole.

The Commission received a report containing a copy of the CWB Anchor Charter. The Charter is aligned to the five pillars of CWB and includes a sixth pillar on the environment focused on achieving net zero.

The Charter was agreed by the Commission subject to the inclusion of 'access to Trade Union membership' under the Fair Employment pillar. It was agreed that the Charter would be launched at the start of Challenge Poverty Week and we should promote this widely given it is a significant document.

The Commission will meet again on 10 December.

### ***CREATIVE BUREAUCRACY FESTIVAL, 29 September***

I took part in an international forum festival called "Creative Bureaucracy" on 29 September hosted by a number of organisations in France. The festival brought people from across the globe together to discuss how nations, and specifically municipal governments, had responded to the pandemic and were building alternative models from it. I was asked to participate and present on North Ayrshire's Community Wealth Building strategy and new municipalism.

### ***COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING EXPERT ADVISORY PANEL, 30 September***

The Community Wealth Building Expert Advisory Panel met on 30 September to hear an update on our CWB progression over the past few months. The Panel also approved our Anchor Charter prior to its official launch during Challenge Poverty Week. There was also discussion about the feasibility of a community bank as part of our strategy. I would like to thank the Panel



members once again for their contribution and in particular to Sarah Deas (Wellbeing Economic Alliance, Scotland) who is Chair of the Panel.

### *CHALLENGE POVERTY WEEK, 5 – 12 October*

North Ayrshire Council has supported the Poverty Alliance campaign “Challenge Poverty Week” for the past five years and in that time have done some incredible work to tackle poverty. This year the national campaign had more engagement than ever, by a wide range of organisations despite the restrictions imposed on us by Covid-19

In June 2017 we set up the Fair for All Commission with the aim of ensuring the movement to tackle poverty has those who experience it at its heart. Some other ways that the Council have challenged poverty over the past five years include:

- Establishment of a Fair for All Youth Commission, to enable young people to be at the heart of the work we do, including reducing the cost of the school day
- Better Off North Ayrshire programme engaged with over 1,000 local people to help people maximise their income. The scheme helped save an incredible £1,057,855
- In a bid to tackle period poverty, North Ayrshire Council introduced free sanitary products in its secondary schools and later extended the initiative, becoming the first local authority in the UK to offer free sanitary provision in all of its public buildings
- The award-winning Holiday School Meal programme that ensures every child, no matter their background, has access to a warm, healthy meal when they're not at school
- The We Work for Families programme, launched in partnership with the Lennox Partnership, provides parents support with debt, childcare and housing issues and helps parents plan and prepare for returning to work, including help with finding jobs
- The launch of a new enhanced 'birth to potty' real nappy scheme that could save families up to £1300 per child on the cost of disposable nappies

On 5 October, we started Challenge Poverty Week by launching our Community Wealth Building Anchor Charter. As previously mentioned, the Charter commits all the big public anchor institutions (the three Ayrshire Councils, NHS Ayrshire and Arran, Ayrshire College and Scottish Enterprise) to using their power as procurement buyers, employers and landowners to improve the Ayrshire economy. This is a big moment in our Community Wealth Building journey, and I look forward to them all helping build and retain local wealth in Ayrshire.

Later that evening I took part in a live panel discussion on Facebook where we looked at how Community Wealth Building will help us tackle poverty and achieve a wellbeing economy in

## LEADER'S REPORT



North Ayrshire as we build back better, fairer and greener. My thanks to Sarah Deas (Wellbeing Economic Alliance Scotland) and Peter Kelly (Chief Executive of the Poverty Alliance) for joining me for the discussion.

Also, as part of Challenge Poverty Week, we focused on our work to tackle food poverty and I was delighted to see the official launch of the new Pantry service at Whitlees Community Centre. The Pantry is an excellent initiative that will allow local residents to become members and get access to low cost food. A massive well done to Julia and all the team at Whitlees.

This Pantry is part of our new North Ayrshire Food System which is seeking to develop networks of community fridges, larders, community supermarkets and food coops in line with a more sustainable approach to food with dignity.

We are continuing our commitment to tackling holiday hunger and confirmed that we would provide £20 food vouchers during the school holidays to all those children eligible for free school meals, like we did during the summer.

My Cabinet approved our second child poverty action plan with one of our key priorities being to reduce the Cost of the School Day. Cllr Foster, the Cabinet's lead member for tackling poverty, will chair a working group that will make recommendations to reduce school costs across the whole of North Ayrshire.

The Cabinet also approved a new "Better Off Hub" demonstrator project. The project will be a 'design experiment' to test a new service concept with a view to rolling the service out further. It will be a Public-Social-Partnership between the council and third sector partners and will provide a one-stop shop for debt advice, welfare rights, energy advice and employability services as well as signposting to other services. The demonstrator project is likely to be located in the Three Towns.

My thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of Challenge Poverty Week and provided support throughout.

### ***COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING PRESENTATIONS, early October***

I took part in various Community Wealth Building Presentations and briefings in the week beginning 5 October. These included

- A meeting on 6 October with Liverpool Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram and relevant officers to discuss areas of common interest including Community Wealth Building, Inclusive Economy, Wellbeing Economics and the LCR Land Commission. Both Liverpool and



North Ayrshire Councils are part of the Centre for Progressive Policy Inclusive Growth Network and both are members of the Wellbeing Economy Alliance

- Centre for Local Economic Strategies Leaders of Practice meeting on 7 October. These are semi-regular meetings for local Leaders who are advancing Community Wealth Building.

### ***INTERVIEW WITH BBC RADIO 4, 11 October***

On 11 October I took part in an interview with BBC Radio 4 on the impact the pandemic is having on our region and on our island communities. I mentioned the following points

- economic impact on hospitality businesses throughout North Ayrshire
- impact specifically on our islands (October school holiday week and this may impact on holiday bookings, cancellations)
- Islands already disproportionately affected by pandemic
- Islands do not have same amount of cases as mainland

I continue to engage with Scottish Government Ministers to look at how we can look to resolve these issues.

### ***MEETING WITH NORTH AYRSHIRE BUSINESSES, 13 October***

On 13 October I had the opportunity to speak with several businesses in the hospitality sector in North Ayrshire to hear how the new restrictions will impact on them and the staff they employ.

What has been clear from those conversations is that businesses are concerned that the replacement for the current furlough scheme won't be enough. Every business I have spoken to has real concerns that the new scheme won't provide the levels of support that were provided at the start of the pandemic.

This is a real threat to jobs. The furlough scheme has been a success, it has sustained people's employment even when the economy shut down. When the scheme was introduced the UK Government looked at the measures that had already been introduced by other countries to protect jobs and created a scheme that would work for the UK.

Now more than ever we need this support to continue, it is vital that we look to the support offered by other big economies and use their experiences to inform what we do in the weeks and months ahead to make sure jobs and wages are protected in North Ayrshire.



Businesses not directly affected by closures, but part of the supply chain also need support if they are to survive.

### ***FAIR SAY ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS, 19, 20 & 22 October***

On 19, 20 and 22 October I had the opportunity to talk to several key workers as we started this year's 'Fair Say' sessions with council staff. The Council's Chief Executive, Craig Hatton, and I launched 'Fair Say' last year as an opportunity for council staff to ask questions to the political and operational leaders of the Council. Unlike last year, when we visited all six localities across North Ayrshire, this year's sessions are taking place under the Covid restrictions and are being held virtually.

What's already clear from the first three sessions is our staff's dedication to supporting residents. The questions and contributions from staff have centered on the needs of those who use their services and how, in these challenging times, they can do more to make them more accessible and ensure they are the highest quality possible.

That is the public service ethos that runs throughout North Ayrshire Council. Teams dedicated to supporting and improving our communities. It's that dedication that drove the Council's effective response to the Covid pandemic and I am pleased to be able to report back to staff at these 'Fair Say' sessions on the numbers they helped achieve – 196 children of key workers supported per day at childcare hubs, 27,900 calls handled by the community hubs, 12,640 prescriptions delivered to vulnerable residents, over 1.5million items of PPE delivered to frontline staff, £24million in grants distributed to over 2000 local businesses and over 1million meals delivered to families during the national lockdown before we transitioned to the £20 per week voucher scheme for those on free school meals.

### ***WEBINAR WITH IMPROVEMENT SERVICE, 20 October***

On 20 October I took part in a Community Wealth Building webinar hosted by the Improvement Service and attended by various politicians from across Scotland. Also taking part was Neil McInroy (Chief Executive at the Centre for Local Economic Strategies, CLES). The session provided the opportunity for others to hear more about our CWB journey in North Ayrshire and to put questions to some of the speakers. These included questions around a community bank and investment in Strathclyde Pension Fund.

### ***COSLA SPECIAL LEADERS MEETING, 26 October***



On 26 October, following the announcement by the First Minister on 23 October that a new tier system for tackling Covid-19 would be introduced in Scotland, I joined other Council Leaders for a COSLA Special Leaders meeting. The meeting was joined by Deputy First Minister, John Swinney.

Leaders were provided with details of [Scotland's Strategic Framework](#) for tackling COVID-19, which was published by the Scottish Government on Friday 23 October.

The report provides an initial assessment of the implications of this framework for Local Government for consideration and for local Leaders for their views and any additional input to inform COSLA's response.

### ***HOLYROOD MAGAZINE: SCOTLAND THE RECOVERY, 27 October***

On 27 October I took part in a webinar hosted by Holyrood Events which looked at the challenges ahead as Scotland looks to recover from the economic disruption of COVID-19, including the threat of further pandemics, the climate crisis, technological upheaval and demographic change.

This event provided a much-needed opportunity for key stakeholders from across the public, private, and third sectors to get together and discuss how Scotland can move forward and build a post-pandemic society capable of meeting the challenges of the future.

It is clear that radical action will be needed to jump-start the Scottish economy and it's vital that we "build back better" and become more resilient and that is why I was delighted to talk about why Community Wealth Building can do just that.

### ***COSLA CONVENTION, 30 October***

I attended the COSLA Convention on 30 October together with other elected members from North Ayrshire Council, where attendees were updated on a range of subjects including a paper on the progress in supporting and delivering Public Health Reform.

This includes the establishment of Public Health Scotland and publication of the organisation's Strategic Plan which is fully in alignment with COSLA's priorities and the Local Government Blueprint. The plan emphasises the importance of working with Local Government to protect and improve population health in Scotland. The strategic plan describes how the organisation will work in partnership with National and Local Government and communities on the following priorities

- COVID-19: response, renewal and recovery



- Children and Poverty
- Mental health
- Place and Community

### ***COSLA LEADERS MEETING, 30 October***

Following on from COSLA Convention I attended a COSLA Leaders meeting, where Leaders received updates on a range of subjects including, an EU Exit Update, Social Renewal Advisory Board Update and more detail about Trauma Informed Workforce.

Leaders and decision-makers have a vital role to play in championing a trauma-informed approach and embodying trauma-informed principles. It is crucial that leaders and decision-makers communicate their commitment to supporting those affected by trauma in their communities and workforces. Actions to support this may include ensuring a trauma-informed approach is embedded and prioritised at a senior level across different community planning agendas and COVID-19 recovery and renewal plans.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Cullinane". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Councillor Joe Cullinane  
**Leader North Ayrshire Council**

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**NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**
**11 November 2020**
**North Ayrshire Council**


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**Title:** **North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board: Minutes of Meeting held on 9 September 2020**

**Purpose:** To submit the Minutes of the meeting of the North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership Board held on 9 September 2020.

**Recommendation:** That the Council notes the Minutes contained in Appendix 1.

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**1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1 It was previously agreed that the Minutes of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board be submitted to North Ayrshire Council for information. The key matters arising from the minutes have been highlighted for the attention of Council and are detailed in Section 2.1.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 Minutes of the meeting of the CPP Board held on 9 September 2020 are appended. It should be noted that the March and June 2020 Board meetings did not take place due to Covid-19. Particular matters for the Council's attention include the following:

**Agenda Item 3**

CPP partners received a presentation on North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan and plans to develop a '1 year bridging plan' with a 2030 vision. Partners discussed links with Community Wealth Building approaches.

**Agenda Item 4**

M Rae and T Reaney provided the Board with a presentation on the plans for recovery and renewal from CPP and Council perspectives. This included research undertaken with CPP partners and the North Ayrshire Council Recovery and Renewal Strategy. It was agreed that the CPP Senior Officers Group will further develop thinking around recovery and renewal as a CPP and bring back a report to a future Board Meeting.

**Agenda Item 5**

Partners considered the Council's Best Value Audit report, especially the findings reflecting the CPP. It was noted it was very positive about the work of the CPP and Locality Partnerships, and partners were thanked for their support with the audit process.

### **Agenda Item 6**

A presentation was provided on Community Wealth Building and partners discussed how their organisations can support this approach.

### **Agenda Item 9**

Partners received an update on Locality Partnerships, engagement with representatives over recent months, and support for virtual meetings.

## **3. Proposals**

3.1 That the Council notes the Minutes contained in Appendix 1.

## **4. Implications**

<b>Financial:</b>	There are no financial implications arising from this report.
<b>Human Resources:</b>	There are no human resource implications arising from this report.
<b>Legal:</b>	There are no legal implications arising from this report.
<b>Equality: Children and Young People:</b>	There are no implications relating to equality or children and young people arising from this report.
<b>Environmental &amp; Sustainability:</b>	There are no environmental implications arising from this report.
<b>Key Priorities:</b>	The CPP activities detailed within this report support the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.
<b>Community Benefits:</b>	There are no community benefit implications arising from this report.

## **5. Consultation**

5.1 No consultation was required.

**Audrey Sutton**  
**Interim Executive Director, Communities**

For further information please contact **Morna Rae, Senior Manager, Policy, Performance and Community Planning** on **01294 324177**.

### **Background Papers**

N/A

# Community Planning Partnership Board

Wednesday 9 September at 11.00 am

Via Microsoft Teams



North Ayrshire  
Community Planning Partnership

## Present

## Appendix 1

### **North Ayrshire Council**

Joe Cullinane (**Chair**)

John Bell, Elected Member

Marie Burns, Elected Member

Scott Davidson, Elected Member

Alex Gallagher, Elected Member

Tony Gurney, Elected Member

Ellen McMaster, Elected Member

Craig Hatton, Chief Executive

### **North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership**

Robert Forster, Elected Member (Chair of IJB)

Stephen Brown, Director

### **Ayrshire College**

Michael Breen, Vice Principal

### **KA Leisure**

Ashley Pringle, KA Leisure Vice Chair

### **NHS Ayrshire & Arran**

Lynne McNiven, Interim Director (Public Health)

### **Police Scotland**

Superintendent Derek Frew

### **Scottish Enterprise**

Mark Newlands, Head of Partnerships

### **Scottish Fire and Rescue**

Ian McMeekin, Area Manager

### **Scottish Government**

Sam Anson, Location Director

### **Skill Development Scotland**

Claire Tooze, Area Manager (Sub for Katie Hutton)

### **Third Sector Interface**

Barbara Hastings, Ayrshire Community Trust

## In Attendance

Audrey Sutton (NAC), Rhona Arthur (NAC), Morna Rae (NAC), Caitriona McAuley (NAC), Thomas Reaney (NAC), Julie McLauchlan (NAC), Michelle Sutherland (NA HSCP), Stewart Harris (SportScotland), Jennifer McGee (NAC).

## **Apologies**

Lesley Bowie (NHS Ayrshire and Arran), John Burns (NHS Ayrshire and Arran), Vicki Yuill (Arran CVS), Allan Comrie (SPT), Karen Yeomans (NAC).

### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.

The Chair welcomed, D Frew and S Anson to their first CPP Board Meeting and highlighted that Stewart Harris, Chief Executive, Sportscotland was observing today.

The Chair also conveyed his thanks to Elaine Young who Chaired the CPP Senior Officers Group over the last 18 months and noted that that Ian McMeekin has taken over as Chair of the Group.

### **2. Minute of the Previous Meeting and Action Note**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved, and the following updates were provided:

M Newlands highlighted that Scottish Enterprise are responding to the programme for Government which is due to be published. Scottish Enterprise will be launching an interim operating plan which he will share at the next CPP Senior Officers Group and then with the Board.

M Rae provided the Board with an update on the Step Change work:

- Community Book – has been created for each of our localities and available on the CPP Website.
- Health Inequalities Self-Assessment Tool and Health in All Policies (HiAP) – plans to use for Ardrossan Masterplan. Also looking for further suitable opportunities
- Unintentional Harm – Community hub work has changed the way we work together to address individual's issues. The focus is now how can we build on this.
- Diet and Healthy Weight – Ongoing work as Early Adopter Site for this work. Ties in with community food system development.

M Rae confirmed that she would bring a more detailed update to the next Board meeting.

M Rae also highlighted that Lesley Bowie will become the new Vice Chair of the CPP Board following her appointment as Chair of NHS Ayrshire and Arran Board.

### **3. North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan**

M Sutherland provided Senior Officers with an update on the North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnerships Strategic Plan.

M Sutherland highlighted that the existing Strategic Plan 'Lets Deliver Care, Together', will cease on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and as a result of the pandemic, there are now significant

barriers to effectively develop a refreshed Strategic Commissioning Plan by March 2021. Therefore, it is proposed to develop a '1 year bridging plan' with a 2030 vision.

The intentions of the plan are:

- To ensure we meet our legal obligations to review the strategic plan while accepting and facing our current challenges;
- Define our pandemic recovery and renewal intentions;
- Demonstrate our commitment to other local and national priorities and partnership working; and
- Set the scene for our long-term 2030 vision;

The HSCP have sought advice from the Scottish Government and our Chief Legal Officer on our proposed approach and both have not had any issues.

M Sutherland advised that the one-year plan would be published by April 2021.

The Chair asked about the contribution the Health and Social Care Partnership and the Integration Joint Board (IJB) will make towards Community Wealth Building in Ayrshire and whether it will start to be embedded in future plans.

S Brown confirmed that plans will be referencing the Community Wealth Building approach locally. He also highlighted that the links between a thriving economy with good quality jobs and good health and wellbeing are well evidenced.

The Chair thanked M Sutherland for the presentation.

#### **4. Recovery and Renewal**

M Rae and T Reaney provided the Board with a presentation on the plans for recovery and renewal from CPP and Council perspectives.

M Rae advised that Members of CPP Senior Officers Group were asked to share learning from the Covid-19 experience from an organisational perspective. The Senior Officers Group were asked a number of questions and from the responses received there were a number of common themes:

- Refocusing/streamlining of work
- Service redesign including the ambition to build back better and address inequalities
- Increased liaison with other services and communities
- Aspects of service delivery stopped
- Reduced face to face delivery of frontline services
- Commitment to the wellbeing of staff
- Strengthened relationships with partners and building valuable new relationships
- More staff empowerment to take decisions
- Greater speed of decision making, recognising the urgency required
- Uncertainties led to greater collaborative discussion around approaches and more collective decisions
- Risk aware not risk averse culture

- Improved communication from leadership to organisation
- Removal of budget silos
- Early high demand for services
- Resourcing IT requirements
- Redeployment of staff
- Use of new government funding essential to service provision
- High demands in reporting to Scottish Government

Partners shared their ambitions in relation to what will have changed in 10 years time as a result of the Covid-19 response. These included staff are strong leaders working towards a common goal and are less risk averse, and there is reduction in barriers created by too much bureaucracy and burden of complicated reporting. It also included sustainable long-term funding and commissioning for community organisations which allows them to respond and deliver services for their communities.

T Reaney advised the Board that the North Ayrshire Council Recovery and Renewal Strategy was approved by Cabinet on 8 September. It was highlighted that the strategy focuses on themes, lessons learned and a set of 10 key principles for renewal.

The strategy recognises there are budget and health and safety implications in recovery and the prioritisation of resources is key and is all built around a community centric approach, ensuring communities are more involved in decision making and working together to co-design solutions.

The main lessons learned from a Council perspective were very similar to those highlighted by partners:

- Positive attitude to change
- Prioritisation of service delivery – Community Hubs and Childcare Hubs and remote learning for our young people set up within one day.
- Empowerment in decision making – from Council and Communities.
- Attitude to risk – more risk aware than risk averse. Having to make decisions quickly.
- Use of digital platforms to support remote and new ways of working, learning and communicating.
- Opportunities for remote and online learning for children, young people and adults.
- Valuable data gathered on community needs and priorities
- Partnership working between Council teams and with agencies and communities

T Reaney highlighted that the work of communities during the pandemic was outstanding.

The 10 key principles of renewal were shared with the Board:

1. Prioritise the health and wellbeing of our residents by protecting the most vulnerable in our society against the immediate threat of coronavirus and the consequences of changes to the way we live. Public Health guidance will be paramount in all the decisions we make.
2. Work with our communities in the renewal of services to ensure they meet their needs and priorities.

3. Build community capacity and resilience.
4. Support the economic recovery of North Ayrshire, helping to create a strong, sustainable and inclusive economy for the future that supports local resilience using the Ayrshire Growth Deal and Community Wealth Building as a means of creating an inclusive economy.
5. Learn lessons from the challenges of Covid 19, promoting a system that utilises the strengths of North Ayrshire to the benefit of all North Ayrshire's residents and businesses
6. Ensure our children and young people get the best start in life by creating opportunities for education and employment, including through Community Wealth Building and Renewal.
7. Prioritise and help tackle poverty, including child poverty.
8. Protect and prioritise the North Ayrshire environment and reinforce our work to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
9. Pursue improvements in service delivery where they have been identified as part of the response and recovery phase, creating a more efficient and resilient system.
10. Prioritise investment towards services that make a greater contribution to key outcomes. This will consider dis-investment from some areas to enable re-investment to support delivery.

M Rae advised that we are taking community learning and ambition, along with partner feedback, data and external expertise to influence how we move forwards.

In terms of what is already underway the following was noted:

- Fair for All strategy is our CPP inequalities focus – review underway to make sure we are still focusing on the right things
- Locality Partnerships reflecting on local experience and local ambitions – what does this mean for local priorities? Plans for wider community consultation
- Development of community food system
- Community Wealth Building
- Focus on health inequalities – commitments in Step Change work to health in all policies and Health Inequalities Self-Assessment Tool – early adopter site for diet and healthy weight
- Community Hubs approach –focus on relationships, partners and communities
- Involving communities in service design

Cllr Gallagher highlighted that we can't go back to where we were and the information from the presentation delivered by T Reaney and M Rae puts things in a good direction.

M Newlands highlighted that strength of our partnerships in North Ayrshire have held us in good stead. M Newlands asked if T Reaney had sight of Renewal and Recovery Plans for East and South Ayrshire Council. T Reaney confirmed that he hasn't seen any plans from South Ayrshire, however East Ayrshire have published their strategy. C Hatton highlighted that he meets with the other two Ayrshire Chief Executives on a weekly basis. They are working closely to ensure anything needing done for Ayrshire is done once to avoid duplication.

A Sutton highlighted that the work on the CPP step change provided a strong basis for this work, and it was more about how we work together than changing what we do.

C Hatton noted the continued relevance of the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan as a foundation for this work.

R Arthur highlighted that there have been many ways we have learned from and listened to our communities. The Council Leader and Chief Executive have virtually met with staff and volunteers working in the Hubs and Locality Partnerships have devoted a considerable amount of time on their agenda to get that feedback. Gathering this information will ensure we are doing all the right things in the right ways for our communities.

The Chair asked for the CPP Senior Officers Group to further develop our thinking around recovery and renewal as a CPP and bring back a report to a future Board Meeting. The Board agreed that this work should be undertaken

The Chair thanked T Reaney and M Rae for their presentation.

## **5. Best Value**

C Hatton provided the Board with an update following the Council's Best Value Audit and highlighted that the full North Ayrshire report was included within the paper circulated to the Board.

Within the report Audit Scotland highlighted that they were impressed with

- How we know our challenges, how this feeds in to the LOIP, Council Plan and Locality Plans. The clear line of sight shows that it is consistent and we are very focussed on that vision.
- Locality Partnership meetings - Auditors attended a few of the meetings during their site visit;
- Rotational Chair of the CPP Senior Officers Group, with all partners are represented equally these meetings and the value of the decision tracker.

In terms of recommendations from a CPP perspective Audit Scotland recommended that Locality Partnerships need to make it clear what the intended impacts are of locality plans are and that the plans should be more accessible.

The Chair thanked C Hatton for his update and also thanked partners involved in the evidence gathering for the audit.

## **6. Community Wealth Building**

J McLachlan provided the Board with an update on Community Wealth Building (CWB). The Chair highlighted that the CWB Strategy was due to be launched before lockdown and was instead launched virtually. The virtual launch has now had over 11,000 views.

J McLachlan advised that:

- CWB is at the heart of our Council Plan following its refresh in 2019.
- CLES Diagnostic undertaken in 2019 – many of our partners were involved in this work which looked at the five pillars of CWB – Procurement, Fair

Employment, Land and Assets, Financial Power and Plural Ownership of the Economy. This assessed where we are in terms of progress on those pillars and the actions needed to be taken to become a CWB Council.

- Community Wealth Building Commission of local and regional Anchor Institutions.
- This was launched the same day of the CLES report. J McLachlan highlighted that the two other Ayrshire Councils have now joined the Commission, which will ensure that the Ayrshire Growth Deal and other regional investments are delivered with a CWB lens.
- The strategy was co-produced by engaging with communities and internally.

J McLachlan also highlighted that the CWB Strategy is a very action-oriented strategy which consist of six high level objectives and 55 actions such as:

- There is a focus on local spend, a target has been set in the Council Plan to increase our local spend as a Council and also encouraging our business base to do the same.
- Ensuring we have a fair work approach to the work of our anchor institutions.
- Reviewing land and assets to look at alternative uses including where they can be used for community and business benefit.
- One of the longer-term actions is exploring the feasibility of a Community Bank.

In terms of delivery, the Council has supported the creation of nine new CWB roles. Recruitment for the nine roles has almost been finalised. Alongside this work the team are undertaking service mapping to look at how services could be aligned to a place-based locality approach building on the work of the Locality Partnerships.

The Green New Deal in North Ayrshire will look at municipal energy, maximising town centres, create support green jobs and tree planting. The twin priorities of a North Ayrshire Green New Deal to build back better, fairer and greener are to:

- Ensure an inclusive economic recovery by delivering our Community Wealth Building mission; and
- Ensure a green economic recovery focused on achieving our net zero carbon ambitions through the creation of sustainable infrastructure and regeneration projects and creating fair jobs.

The Commission has been formed for almost one year and has been very involved in the creation of the strategy. The next step for the Commission is the development of an Anchor Charter which will look to embed CWB principles throughout the anchors who are part of the Commission and beyond.

In terms of the Ayrshire Growth Deal it has been agreed that the whole of the Growth Deal should be delivered with a CWB lens. J McLachlan is working with each of the Ayrshire project leads.

M Newlands highlighted that there is a significant national interest in North Ayrshire and that Scottish Enterprise has appointed a lead on CWB to ensure Scottish Enterprise add best value in to CWB which they can then replicate across the rest of the country.

S Anson asked J McLachlan to confirm what is meant by “better” in relation to “building back better, fairer and greener”. J McLachlan highlighted the need for the North Ayrshire economy to be more resilient and advised that she will share the economic recovery and renewal approach which sets out the principles of what is meant by “better, fairer and greener”.

The Chair and S Brown noted the recent work undertaken with NHS Ayrshire and Arran on CWB and that there is strong support.

The Leader thanked J McLachlan for updating the Board and advised that should any Board member wish to discuss matters further to contact J McLachlan.

## **7. State of the Economy**

C McAuley provided the Board with an update on the state of the economy.

C McAuley highlighted that we are now in the biggest recession to hit the UK on record. GDP fell by 20% in the first three months and forecasts are now predicting that the economy will make a very slow recovery to pre-Covid 19 levels between January 2022 and July 2024, all dependent upon whether there is a second wave of Covid.

C McAuley reported that the unemployment count for North Ayrshire as of July 2020 was at almost 9% which represents over 7000 people and is the highest rate in Scotland. Between January and July 2020 there was a 113% increase in unemployment in young women between the ages of 16 – 24. The latest HMRC data shows that 9.6m people across the UK have been furloughed, that includes over 17,000 people in North Ayrshire which is a concern as the scheme is due to end.

Since March services have:

- Supported 1,443 businesses with over 12,000 different interventions;
- Currently working with 200 businesses on recovery plans;
- 90 webinars delivered and 75 planned – first in Scotland;
- Over £23.5m worth of support has been delivered to local businesses.

Since April the teams have:

- 2,295 live clients receiving support;
- 150 new registrations;
- 61 residents supported into employment;
- 50 MA vacancies and 41 filled so far.

Cllr McMaster asked for further information on young unemployed women, which has been noted as a particular issue on Arran. C McAuley advised that the team have been working with the stakeholders on the island and the Fraser of Allander Institute have been commissioned to look at the economic impact of Covid on Arran. The full report will be shared once it is available.

The Chair thanked C McAuley for her presentation and conveyed his thanks on behalf of the CPP Board to the work the team has carried out.

## **8. Childrens Services Plan and Child Poverty Action Plan**

A Sutton advised the Board that the submission of the both the Children's Services Plan and the Child Poverty Action Plan were delayed due to the pandemic. Copies of these plans were circulated to Board Members for comment by 11 September 2020.

In terms of Children's Services Plan Scottish Government did give the option of waiting until the new financial year to submit a 2-year plan instead of a 3-year plan, however North Ayrshire have made the decision to submit this year as we recognise that children has been affected to a great extent because of Covid.

The Children's Services Plan needs to be submitted to the Scottish Government by 30 September, however this is with the caveat that it still requires to be approved by the Cabinet, IJB and NHS Board. Any changes would be made to the draft version submitted to the Scottish Government.

It was agreed that this will be an agenda item at the next Board meeting to allow for a more detailed discussion.

The Chair thanked A Sutton for the update.

## **9. Locality Partnerships**

M Rae provided the Board with an update on the September round of Locality Partnership Meetings. Two of our Locality Partnerships have met virtually this month – North Coast and Kilwinning, with Arran meeting tonight. At each meeting we are dedicating agenda time to talk about community responses during lockdown, the existing priorities and whether they are still valid. This will be followed up with a questionnaire. The Team have given a lot of support to community representatives especially to help them participate via Microsoft Teams including lending them tablets and doing test meetings. We are taking the learning from each meeting to feed into the next. We will issue a link to the LP minutes to the Board once they are available on the CPP website.

The Chairs of the North Coast and Kilwinning Locality Partnerships thanked officers for their support in preparing for and running their meetings.

The Chair thanked M Rae for her update.

## **10. AOCB**

The Chair highlighted that there were a number of reports attached to the agenda for the Boards information, including the Community Justice report for endorsement (which had previously been circulated in draft by email).

## **11. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for 2nd December, currently planning that it will take place via Microsoft Teams.

