



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

North Ayrshire Council Meeting

9 June 2021

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Ayrshire Economic Partnership Board

29 January 2021

At a Meeting of the Ayrshire Economic Partnership Board at 2.00 p.m. involving participation by remote electronic means.

Present

Councillors Peter Henderson, Siobhian Brown and Brian Connolly (South Ayrshire Council); Marie Burns, Joe Cullinane and Alex Gallagher (North Ayrshire Council); Tom Cook, John McGhee and Douglas Reid (East Ayrshire Council).

In Attendance

C. Hatton, K. Yeomans and C. McAuley (North Ayrshire Council); E. Fraser, D. McDowall, J. McLauchlan and A. Craig (East Ayrshire Council); E. Howat, D. Gillies and T. Leijser (South Ayrshire Council); E. Baird and R. Phillips (Scottish Government); G. Adam and B. Fraser (Scottish Enterprise); J. Mone and M. Radosavljevic (University of West of Scotland); A. Dobson (Taste of Arran); S. Foster (Spirit AeroSystems); M. Goodfellow (Highlands and Islands Enterprise); K. Hutton (Skills Development Scotland); A. Gillespie (University of Strathclyde); A. McGregor (University of Glasgow); V. Russell (Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce); C. Turnbull (Ayrshire College); and H. Clancy (North Ayrshire Council).

Also in Attendance

L. Kirk, J. McLachlan and G. Robson (North Ayrshire Council); D. Manson (Ayrshire Road Alliance); F. Kennedy (NHS Salus).

Apologies

Malcolm Roughead and Hisashi Kuboyama

Chair

Councillor Peter Henderson in the Chair.

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were noted.

3. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Partnership Board held on 14 September 2020 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

4.1 Food & Drink

Submitted report and received a presentation by Alastair Dobson, Taste of Arran on the Food and Drink Workstream. The presentation highlighted key priorities, creation of the virtual team, progress made so far and next steps.

The Partnership Board asked questions and was provided with further information in relation to: -

- post Brexit problems and support from the UK Government; and
- the use of regional data to create a food and drink database.

Noted.

4.2 Visitor Economy and Ayrshire Tourism Action Plan

Submitted report and a received presentation by Karen Yeomans, Director (Growth and Investment) North Ayrshire Council on the Visitor Economy workstream and the Ayrshire Tourism Action Plan. The presentation highlighted that the destination priorities and a short-medium term action plan had been identified through research and consultation with partners and the industry. The plan enabled Ayrshire's private and public sector partners to deliver short-term actions to support tourism industry recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and work towards the formation of a regional tourism collaboration and a longer-term strategic action plan to reboot sector growth through a destination development approach. The action plan set out a commitment to collective action that will benefit sector recovery and its return to sustainable growth and would be reviewed and updated as progress was made, along with the development of options in respect of a potential regional collaboration.

The Partnership Board asked questions and was provided with further information in relation to: -

- internal markets and local businesses for town regenerations;
- how the action plan fitted with Chamber Forward Together Strategy, in particular Ayrshire Connect; and
- getting the right approach to tourism.

The Partnership agreed to the implementation of the short-term measure of the Ayrshire Tourism Action Plan to be co-delivered by the private and public sector members of the Ayrshire Visitor Economy Strategic Sub-Group.

4.3 Space and Aerospace

Submitted report and received a presentation by Simon Foster, Spirit AeroSystems on the Space and Aerospace Workstream, highlighting the decommissioning MRO project.

The Partnership Board asked questions and was provided with information in relation to:-

- clarification that funding would be from both public and private sectors.

- the development of a wider range of strategic actions in respect of the space and aerospace workstream.

Noted.

4.4 Clean Growth

Submitted report by Theresa Correia (Scottish Enterprise) and Milan Radosavljevic (UWS) on the Clean Growth Workstream. A Scotland-wide Business recovery portal would be launched in February 2021 with an initial focus on our Scottish campus locations (Ayrshire, Dumfries & Galloway, Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire). The purpose was to continuously evaluate emerging needs within local authorities across Scotland and the initial information from several hundred CPD attendees indicated reskilling/upskilling/retraining as well as financial support to be the key needs (individuals and companies). It was also highlighted that the energy masterplan would require to be funded.

Noted.

4.5 Digital

The Partnership Board received a verbal update by Theo Leijser, South Ayrshire Council on the Digital Workstream.

The Partnership Board asked questions and was provided with further information in relation to: -

- digital transformation being a key enabler for all workstreams, business and community resilience; and
- development of a digital communication and document project management tool to aid the workstreams.

Noted.

4.6 Skills

Submitted report by Andrea Glass, Skills Development Scotland on how? the Skills Workstream and Skills Development Scotland supported by Ayrshire College, UWS and the RES Skills Group, would facilitate the development of a Regional Skills Investment Plan (RSIP). This would set out collective and agreed understanding of the:

- demand for skills and people in Ayrshire over the short and medium term;
- current people and skills supply, and the gaps between supply and current and future demand; and
- people and skills priorities that enterprise and skills agencies and providers across the skills system should seek to address.

Co-designed by partners this would:

- set clear commitments and actions that partners would deliver over the next 3 years;

- provide an agreed baseline to monitor future progress; and
- outline proposals for clear governance, delivery and reporting arrangements.

Noted.

4.7 The Partnership Board received an update on plans for a workshop to look across all workstreams and the common principles of the partnership and growth deal projects to identify areas of complementarity and how these could be best take forward.

The Partnership Board asked questions and received further information in relation to: -

- the development of a communications plan to raise the profile of the work of the economic partnership as well as individual workstreams.
- the development of action plans for each of the workstreams
- the availability of business data to help inform development of workstreams.

5. COVID-19 – Ayrshire Wide Business Support Update

Submitted report by the Ayrshire Executive Group on the approach being taken across Ayrshire by the three local authorities, Scottish Enterprise and VisitScotland to support local businesses during the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic and in the adjustment period following the UK's exit from the European Union. The list of Scottish Government funds and funding intentions was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

Noted.

6. Regional Business Support Update

Submitted report by the Ayrshire Executive Group on the work being progressed to develop Business Support offers at a regional and local level. The report set out an agreed shared vision amongst the three Councils and Scottish Enterprise on the development of respective business support activities, highlighting the existing regional consistent offer that was available and presented new opportunities under development to enhance regional offers.

Noted.

7. Freeports Update

Submitted report by Craig Hatton, Chief Executive North Ayrshire Council on the establishment of Freeports in the UK, including the Ayrshire response to the recent Scottish Government consultation on economic development zones including Freeports. The response was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

Noted.

8. Community Wealth Building Update

Submitted report by Craig Hatton, Chief Executive North Ayrshire Council on regional Community Wealth Building activities including the launch of the Ayrshire Community Wealth Building Anchor Charter. The Anchor Charter was set out at Appendix 1, Terms of Reference set out at Appendix 2 and the Workplan set out at Appendix 3 to the report.

Noted.

9.1 Ayrshire Growth Deal Programme Update

Submitted report by David McDowall, Interim Head of Planning and Economic Development East Ayrshire Council on the Ayrshire Growth Deal. The Ayrshire Growth Deal and development of its component projects were set out at Appendix 1 to the report, the suite of deal documents set out at Appendices 2 – 8 and the finalised agreement set out at Appendix 9 to the report.

The formal virtual signing of the Ayrshire Growth Deal took place on 19 November 2020 and agreement reached with partners around an approach to management of cash flows in respect of government grant funding. An Agreement between East Ayrshire Council, North Ayrshire Council and South Ayrshire Council around governance, finance and reporting arrangements had now been agreed and pending formal signing. It was highlighted that the HALO project was due to complete soon and the AGD website would launch at the end of February 2021.

The board were advised of the inconsistencies and time taken to secure sign off of business cases by respective Governments and agreed to escalate these concerns to Officials and Ministers.

Noted.

9.2 Working for a Healthy Economy Project

Received a presentation by Greig Robson (Economic Development & Regeneration) North Ayrshire Council and Fiona Kennedy, NHS Salus on the Working for a Healthy Economy Project. The presentation highlighted the aims of the project, service delivery plans, challenges, service model and next steps. The Partnership Board was also provided with details of a recent case study of the project.

The Partnership Board asked a question and was provided with clarification on the delay in getting the business case signed off by Scottish Government.

Noted.

9.3 Community Wealth Building Project

Received a presentation by Julie McLachlan (Economic Development & Regeneration) North Ayrshire Council on the Community Wealth Building Project. The presentation highlighted the aims of the project, an overview of the project, what would be delivered, how the project would be delivered and managed, and next steps.

The Partnership Board asked a question and was provided with clarification on the delay in getting the business case signed off by Scottish Government.

Noted.

10. Strategic Transport Projects Review Update (STPR2)

Receive Presentation by Louise Kirk (Economic Development & Regeneration) North Ayrshire Council and David Manson, Ayrshire Roads Alliance on the Strategic Transport Projects Review. The presentation highlighted the purpose of the review, stakeholder engagement, phased approach, themes, regional transport appraisal, the 3 Ayrshire priorities, current position and next steps.

The Partnership was advised that the three Ayrshire Chief Executives had raised concerns and a letter had been sent to the Transport Minister seeking a meeting as transport was a key factor in creating employment in Ayrshire and was not adequately reflected in the national work published to date.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 5.30 p.m.

Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee

22 February 2021

At a Meeting of the Ayrshire Economic Partnership Board at 2.00 p.m. involving participation by remote electronic means.

Present

Councillors Joe Cullinane, Marie Burns and Alex Gallagher (North Ayrshire Council); Peter Henderson and Brian Connolly (South Ayrshire Council); Tom Cook, John McGhee and Douglas Reid (East Ayrshire Council).

In Attendance

C. Hatton and C. McAuley (North Ayrshire Council); E. Fraser, D. McDowall and A. Craig (East Ayrshire Council); E. Howat and D. Gillies (South Ayrshire Council); S. Foster (Spirit AeroSystems); A. Glass (Skills Development Scotland); C. Turnbull (Ayrshire College); J. Martin (Scottish Enterprise) and H. Clancy (North Ayrshire Council).

Also in Attendance

J. McLachlan and G. Robson (North Ayrshire Council).

Apologies

Katie Hutton and Karen Yeomans

Chair

Councillor Joe Cullinane in the Chair.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Committee held on 14 September 2020 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

2. Ayrshire Growth Deal Programme Update

Submitted report by David McDowall, Interim Head of Planning and Economic Development East Ayrshire Council on the Ayrshire Growth Deal. The Ayrshire Growth Deal and development of its component projects as at 11 January 2021 were set out at Appendix 1 to the report, the final version of the suite of deal documents set out at Appendices 2 – 8 and the finalised agreement set out at Appendix 9 to the report.

It was highlighted that the HALO project was due to complete mid-April 2021, the Ayrshire Growth Deal website would launch at the end of February 2021, the Outline Business Case for Working for a Healthy Economy project was approved by Scottish Government on 19 February 2021 and the Outline Business Case for the Community Wealth Building project was approved by Scottish Government on 12 February 2021.

The Joint Committee asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to: -

- Covid-19 as the reason for the majority of amber updates on the Ayrshire Growth Deal dashboard and the delay in response from the Scottish Government; and
- the link to the Ayrshire Growth Deal website which would be provided on the 3 Ayrshire's own websites.

Noted.

3 Working for a Healthy Economy Project – Final Business Case

Submitted report by Craig Hatton, Chief Executive, North Ayrshire Council on the Final Business Case for the Ayrshire Growth Deal, Working for a Healthy Economy Project. The Final Business Case was set out at Appendix 1 to the report, the Local Authority Ayrshire Growth Deal Agreement set out at Appendix 2 and Ayrshire Growth Deal Governance Document set out at Appendix 3 to the report.

The Joint Committee asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to: -

- engagement of rural communities being a key factor; and
- alignment with Locality Partnership priorities to help support communities.

The Joint Committee agreed to (a) approve the Final Business Case for the Working for a Healthy Economy project set out at Appendix 1 to the report; (b) note the position regarding Scottish Government approval of the Outline Business Case; and (c) approve the use of Ayrshire Growth Deal funding for the project and implementation of its activities.

4. Community Wealth Building Project

Submitted report by Craig Hatton, Chief Executive, North Ayrshire Council on the Final Business Case for the Ayrshire Growth Deal Community Wealth Building Fund Project. The Final Business Case was set out at Appendix 1 to the report, the Local Authority Ayrshire Growth Deal Agreement set out at Appendix 2 and Ayrshire Growth Deal Governance Document set out at Appendix 3 to the report.

The Joint Committee agreed to (a) approve the Final Business Case for the Community Wealth Building Fund project set out at Appendix 1 to the report; (b) note the position regarding Scottish Government approval of the Outline Business Case; and (c) approve the use of Ayrshire Growth Deal funding for the project and implementation of its activities.

5. Ayrshire Economic Partnership Board Minutes

Submitted, for information, the Minutes of the meeting of the Ayrshire Economic Partnership Board held on 29 January 2021.

Noted.

6. Ayrshire Economic Partnership Board

The Joint Committee received a verbal update by David McDowall, Interim Head of Planning and Economic Development East Ayrshire Council on the meeting of the Ayrshire Economic Partnership Board held on 29 January 2021.

The Joint Committee was advised of an update in relation to agenda item 10 (Strategic Transport Projects Review Update (STPR2), namely that (i) a meeting had now been arranged with the Transport Minister, the three Ayrshire Chief Executives and three Ayrshire Leaders and (ii) an update from this meeting would be provided in due course.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 2.35 p.m.



North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership
Minute of virtual Integration Joint Board meeting held on
Thursday 18 March 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

Present

Councillor Robert Foster, North Ayrshire Council (Chair)
Bob Martin, NHS Ayrshire and Arran (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Timothy Billings, North Ayrshire Council
Adrian Carragher, NHS Ayrshire and Arran
Councillor Anthea Dickson, North Ayrshire Council
Jean Ford, NHS Ayrshire and Arran
John Rainey, NHS Ayrshire and Arran
Councillor John Sweeney, North Ayrshire Council

Caroline Cameron, Director
Eleanor Currie, Interim Section 95 Officer (IJB)/Principal Manager (Finance)
Dr Calum Morrison, Acute Services Representative
Alistair Reid, Lead Allied Health Professional Adviser

David Donaghey, Staff Representative (NHS Ayrshire and Arran)
Louise McDaid, Staff Representative (North Ayrshire Council)
Clive Shephard, Service User Representative
Glenda Hanna, Independent Sector Representative
Vicki Yuill, Third Sector Representative
Louise Gibson, IJB Irvine Locality Forum (Chair)

In Attendance

Alison Sutherland, Head of Service (Children, Families and Justice)
Thelma Bowers, Head of Service (Mental Health)
Michelle Sutherland, Partnership Facilitator
Neil McLaughlin, Manager (Performance and Information Systems)
Mhairi Kennedy, NHS Ayrshire and Arran
Dr. Morag Henderson
Karen Andrews, Team Manager (Governance)
Angela Little, Committee Services Officer
Euan Gray, Committee Services Officer
Hayley Clancy, Committee Services Officer

Apologies for Absence

Dr. Louise Wilson, GP Representative
Graham Searle, Carers Representative
Janet McKay, Chair, Garnock Valley HSCP Locality Forum
Marie McWaters, Carers Representative

1. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed Mhairi Kennedy and Louise Gibson to the meeting. Mhairi has joined the NHS Board and Louise is now the Chair of Irvine Locality Planning Forum.

As a result of changes to the NHS Board, Jean Ford will be standing down from the IJB and her role as Chair of the Performance and Audit Committee. The Chair took the opportunity to thank Jean for her contribution to the work of the Partnership.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest in terms of Standing Order 7.2 and Section 5.14 of the Code of Conduct for Members of Devolved Public Bodies.

3. Minutes/Action Note

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2021 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

4. Director's Report

Submitted report on developments within the North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership.

The report provided an update on the following areas:-

- Online Apply with Conviction workshops;
- Extreme Team : Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services;
- Funding to Reduce Drug Deaths;
- New Facebook Group for those living with a Sensory Impairment;
- Baby Friendly Initiative;
- Recruitment – Care at Home; and
- Covid Update, included information on vaccinations, testing, staff testing and care home visiting.

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

- The Care Home Academy that provides access to further education and accredited courses; and
- A report to a future meeting on additional funding to reduce drugs deaths.

Noted.

5. Appointments

Submitted report by Caroline Cameron, Director of (NAHSCP) on changes to the membership of various NHS Committees that has resulted in a change to the NHS representation on the IJB. Jean Ford would be standing down from the IJB and also her role as Chair of the Performance and Audit Committee. Mhairi Kennedy had been appointed to the NHS Board and nominated to replace Jean on the IJB and as the Chair of the Performance and Audit Committee.

The report also detailed the appointment of Louise Gibson as Chair of the Irvine Locality Planning Forum.

The Board agreed to (a) note (i) the changes to the NHS Board and their appointments to the IJB and IJB Performance and Audit Committee; and (ii) the appointment of Louise Gibson as Chair of the Irvine Locality Planning Forum; and (b) endorse the appointment of Louise Gibson to the IJB as the Chair of Irvine Locality Planning Forum.

6. Financial Performance

Submitted report by Eleanor Currie, Interim Section 95 Officer on the financial position of the North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership.

Appendix A to the report provided the financial overview of the partnership position, with detailed analysis provided in Appendix B. An overview of the savings plan was provided at Appendix C. Appendix D outlined the movement in the overall budget position for the partnership following the initial approved budget and the local finance mobilisation plan submission was provided at Appendix E to the report.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to further additional funding from the Scottish Government for use in future years, outlined in Section 1.4 of the report, and the expectation that IJB's will carry forward funds in reserve.

The Board agreed to note (a) the overall integrated financial performance report for the financial year 2020-21 and the overall projected year-end underspend of £3.497m at period 10 (following Covid-19 funding); (b) the further funding received during 2020-21 to be earmarked in line with the purposes of the funding allocations; (c) the updated estimated costs of the Covid mobilisation plan of £10.211m, including savings delays, and the full funding received; and (d) the remaining financial risks for 2020-21, including the impact of remaining Covid-19 estimates and costs.

7. IJB 2021/22 Budget

Submitted report by Eleanor Currie, Interim Section 95 Officer on the financial position for the Partnership for 2021/22, including the proposed delegated funding, service budget pressures, plans developed to set a balanced budget and associated risks. A summary of the 2021/22 budget and net budget increase was detailed at Appendix A. Appendix B provided details of the service costs and demand pressures. Savings in relation to NAC and NHS commissioned services was outlined at Appendix C and Appendix D provided the NHS baseline uplift for 2021/22. The budget and finance settlement funding letters detailing the requirements in relation to the level of funding to be delegated to IJBs in 2021/22 was detailed at Appendix C to the report.

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

- Agreements on the pay award and National Care Home contracts that is expected in the summer 2021;
- Repayment to the Council of £1.486m in 2020/21 and each year until full repayment;
- The use of reserves to balance the budget;
- The Challenge Fund of £500,00 and how to use this to achieve longer term savings, such as investing in technology;

- An uplift for mental health services of 1.5%, in line with other services;
- The inclusion of Covid recovery for mental health services in the Health Board's Mobilisation Plan and a request for £1.9m to cover pan-Ayrshire mental health services recovery; and
- Work to assess the impact of the national reduction in funding for Justice Services and a report that will be provided to the May meeting.

The Board agreed to (a) approve the budget for 2021-22 for North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership inclusive of all pressures and savings, noting that the funding position is subject to confirmation by NHS AA; (b) approve the proposed use of reserves as set out in section 3.4, including £1.116m of IJB general fund reserves to balance the budget for 2021-22 on a non-recurring basis; (c) accept the delegation of financial responsibility for the rehabilitation wards at the Ayrshire Central Site (Douglas Grant and Redburn) from 1 April 2021; and (d) approve the removal of charges for residential respite services

Louise McDaid left the meeting at this point.

8 Young Person Suicide Support Pathway

Submitted report by Roseanne Burns, Senior Manager, Children and Families on the updated Young Person's Suicide Support Pathway, presented by Alison Sutherland, Head of Service (Head of Service (Children, Families and Justice)). The internal pathway and process developed to respond to any attempted suicide by a young person was attached as an Appendix to the report.

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

- The inclusion within the flowchart diagram of young people who are admitted to hospital and who may not have a medical reason for admission
- The role of the CAMHS Intensive Support Team within the Paediatric Ward and work by the CAMHS Team with Children's Services to ensure the follow up is more robust;
- Work underway by the Distress Pathway Group on young people who are admitted to hospital and implementation on 1 April 2021 of a new pathway for frequent attendees to the Emergency Department.

The Board acknowledged and commended the excellent work of the team.

Noted.

9 Records Management Plan

Submitted report by Julie Davis, Principal Manager Business Administration on the proposed response to the Keeper of the Records of Scotland's Interim Report on North Ayrshire IJB'S Records Management Plan. The Interim Report was attached as an appendix to the report and included the further information and evidence requested.

The Board agreed to (a) approve the response to the Keeper of the Records of Scotland's Interim Report; and (b) otherwise note the report.

10 Strategic Risk Register

Submitted report by Eleanor Currie, Interim S95 Officer on the updated Strategic Risk Register. Appendix A detailed the current Strategic Risk Register and an extract of the approved risk management strategy was attached at Appendix B to the report.

The Board agreed to approve the updated IJB Strategic Risk Register.

11 Strategic Bridging Plan 2021/22

Submitted report by Michelle Sutherland (Strategic Planning and Transformation Lead) on the Strategic Bridging Plan and Summary Strategic Building Plan to IJB. The Strategic Bridging Plan 2021/22 was attached at Appendix 1 and the Summary Plan was provided at Appendix 2 to the report.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the predominately female workforce and the addition of visuals within the plan to represent workforce equality.

The Board agreed to approve the full and summary Strategic Bridging Plans for publication in April 2021.

12 Action 15 Funding Proposal

Submitted report by Thelma Bowers, Head of Service (Mental Health) providing an update on the implementation plan progress and the outcomes of the options appraisal for Year 4 funding.

The Board agreed to (a) note implementation plan progress; and (b) approve the outcome of the options appraisal for Year 4 funding.

13 IJB PAC Minutes

Submitted the Minutes of the IJB PAC meeting held on 27 November 2020.

Noted.

14 SPG Minutes

Submitted the Minutes of the Strategic Planning Group held on 25 January 2021.

The Board was advised that attendance had dropped, and officers will work on encouraging attendance at future meetings.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 11.45 a.m.

Appeals Committee
23 March 2021

A Meeting of the Appeals Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.30 a.m. involving participation by remote electronic means.

Present

Councillors John Glover, Davina McTiernan and Angela Stephen.

In Attendance

J. Smillie, Senior Manager (HR & OD) (People and ICT); D. Grier, Solicitor (Litigation) and E. Gray, Committee Services Officer (Democratic Services).

Also In Attendance

D. Hammond, Head of Service, (Commercial) (Place); T. Bulloch, HR Adviser (People and ICT); and the appellant.

Chair

Councillor John Glover in the Chair.

1. Declarations of Interest

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

2. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 17 September 2020 was confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

Exclusion of the Public

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

3. Disciplinary Procedure: Appeal Against Dismissal

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the background to an appeal against dismissal by a former employee within Place.

The service representative presented the grounds for dismissal as previously advised to the appellant in writing. The appellant was given the opportunity to respond to the issues raised and to ask questions of the service representative. Members of the Committee were also given the opportunity to ask questions.

Thereafter the appellant presented the grounds of appeal. The service representative was given the opportunity to respond to the issues raised and to ask questions of the appellant. Members of the Committee were also given the opportunity to ask questions of the appellant.

After summing up their respective cases, the service representative and the appellant withdrew from the hearing to allow the Committee to deliberate.

Following deliberation, the Committee agreed (a) that the grounds of appeal had not been upheld; (b) to confirm the decision previously imposed on the appellant; and (c) that the appellant be so advised within 14 days.

The Meeting ended at 12.30 p.m.

Cabinet (Education)

23 March 2021

At a Meeting of the Cabinet (Education) of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m. involving participation by remote electronic means.

Present

Joe Cullinane, John Bell, Robert Foster, Alex Gallagher, and Jim Montgomerie; and Jacqui MacKenzie (Teaching Representative), Andrew Bruce, and Babs Mowat (Church Representatives) (Agenda Items 1-6).

In Attendance

C. Hatton, Chief Executive, M. Boyd, Head of Service (Finance), A. Fraser, Head of Service (Democratic Services) and D. Forbes, Senior Manager (Strategic Business Partner) (Finance) (Chief Executive's Service); R. McCutcheon, Executive Director, C. McAuley, Head of Service (Economic Development and Regeneration), C. Dempster, Senior Manager (Network), and L. Kirk, Senior Manager (Regeneration Services) (Place); A. Sutton, Executive Director, C. Amos, Head of Service (Education), R. Arthur, (Interim) Head of Service (Connected Communities), A. McClelland, Head of Service (Education), A. Morrell, Senior Manager (Community Learning and Development), and D. Anderson, Youth Participation and Democracy Officer (Communities and Education); E. Currie, Senior Manager (Health and Social Care Partnership); J. Hutcheson, Senior Communications Officer, and E. Gray and A. Little, Committee Services Officers (Democratic Services).

Also In Attendance

A. McDonald and E. Nix, MSYPs.

Chair

Joe Cullinane in the Chair.

1. Declarations of Interest

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

2. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 23 February 2021 was confirmed and the Minutes authorised to be signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. North Ayrshire Youth Participation and Citizenship Strategy 2021-2025

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) on the North Ayrshire Youth Participation and Citizenship Strategy 2021-2025 as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

A presentation was given by local MSYPs on the strategy which set out a number of points, including:

- highlights from the 2015-19 strategy, the outcomes which had been achieved through its implementation and a number of priority areas which would continue to feature in the renewed strategy;
- how the strategy would impact the lives of young people living in North Ayrshire;
- a focus on youth inclusion and engagement and climate change; and
- the next steps, including a call for decision makers to pledge to engage with young people and take their views into account when setting policy.

Members discussed the actions that they would pledge and asked the young people in attendance for their views on how the Cabinet could best support the strategy.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to (a) note the progress made through the North Ayrshire Youth Participation and Citizenship Strategy 2015-2019; (b) approve the North Ayrshire Youth Participation and Citizenship Strategy 2021-2025; and (c) sign a pledge to (i) participate in Joint Cabinet meetings, including the use of virtual meetings to engage with more schools, (ii) hold regular meetings with MSYPs, and (iii) organise question time sessions for young people.

4. Early Learning and Childcare Expansion Programme

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) on developments in Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the registration processes for 2021/22 and the proportion of children being placed in their first choice ELC establishment.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to note the plan for full delivery of 1140 hours of Early Learning and Childcare in North Ayrshire Council and funded provider establishments in North Ayrshire.

5. Pupil Equity Funding in North Ayrshire – Progress Report

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) on the use of Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) in North Ayrshire. A summary of the level PEF each school would receive was set out at Appendix 1 to the report, data on key measures in reducing attainment gap at Appendix 2 and a number of case studies on how the funding had been used at Appendix 3.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the data used to measure the progress in reducing the attainment gap in literacy, how this compared to the trend of overall attainment levels and whether comparisons with other authorities were available.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to note (i) the use of Pupil Equity Funding investment during session 2019-20 (ii) the year to date spend for 2020-21 and (iii) the initial indications of the impact of Covid-19 on PEF use for session 2020-21.

6. Cost of the School Day

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) which set out the findings and recommendations of the Short-Life Working Group on Reducing the Cost of the School Day. The proposed policy and action plan were set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to (a) approve the North Ayrshire Council Cost of the School Day policy and draft action plan; and (b) receive annual updates on the progress of the action plan.

7. Revenue Budget 2020/21: Financial Performance to 31 January 2021

Submitted a report by the Head of Service (Finance) on the financial performance for the Council at 31 January 2021. Budget reports for each service and the Housing Revenue Account were set out at Appendices 1-6 to the report and an overview of the IJB's financial performance as at Period 10 at Appendix 7.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to (a) approve the earmarking of £0.598m identified at Section 2.6 of the report to meet future year commitments; and (b) note (i) the information and financial projections outlined in the report and (ii) the current financial projection for the Health and Social Care Partnership at Section 2.7 of the report.

8. Capital Programme Performance to 31 March 2021

Submitted a report by the Head of Service (Finance) on the progress in delivering the Capital Investment Programme for 2020/21 as set out at Appendix 1 to the report. The HRA Capital Statement was set out at Appendix 2.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to (a) approve the revisions to budgets outlined in the report; and (b) note (i) the General Services and HRA revised budgets at 31 January 2021 and (ii) the forecast expenditure to 31 March 2021.

9. Regeneration Delivery Plan

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the proposed Regeneration Delivery Plan. The draft plan was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to derelict properties in Gallowgate Square, Largs, whether the proposed plan would have any impact on these properties and the process for proposing new sites to be included in the plan.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to approve the proposed Regeneration Delivery Plan set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

10. Strategic Transport Update

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on strategic transport in North Ayrshire and a consultation response on the Strategic Transport Projects Review 2 (STPR2). The proposed consultation response was set out at Appendix 1 to the report and a STPR2 option sifting briefing note at Appendix 2.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to (a) approve the proposed consultation response to the STPR2 consultation; and (b) note (i) the update on the Strategic Transport Projects Review 2, (ii) the current position on the Ayrshire Regional Transport Appraisal; and (iii) the progress of the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport Regional Transport Strategy.

11. Roads, Structures and Street Lighting Maintenance Programme 2021/22

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the proposed Roads, Structures and Street Lighting Maintenance Programme for 2021/22 as set out at Appendices 1a and 1b to the report. The Condition Assessment and Prioritisation Process was set out at Appendix 2 to the report, the assessment matrix used for scoring and ranking footways for inclusion in the footway resurfacing programme at Appendix 3 and the assessment matrix used for scoring and ranking structures for inclusion in the Structures Maintenance Programme is attached in Appendix 4.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the possibility of accelerating core infrastructure funding to facilitate additional maintenance works in 2021/22.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to (a) approve the maintenance programme for 2021/22 as set out at Appendices 1a and 1b to the report; (b) request that a report be submitted to the next meeting on options for the acceleration of core infrastructure funding and potential works which this could be used to fund; and (c) note (i) the approach taken to determine the asset maintenance programme for roads, structures and street lighting and (ii) that the programme would be issued to the Locality Planning Partnerships for information.

12. i3 Advanced Manufacturing Space Project, Irvine

Submitted a report by the Director (Growth and Investment) on i3 Advanced Manufacturing Space Project, Irvine. Images of the proposed design of the Digital Processing Manufacturing Centre and the proposed Phase 1 of Advanced Manufacturing Space were set out at Appendices 1 and 2 to the report.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to (a) support the delivery of the first phase of the programme; (b) approve an allocation of £200,000 towards the development of the first phase in advance of approval of the Outline Business Case; and (c) note progress with the i3 Advanced Manufacturing Space programme at i3, Irvine Enterprise Area.

The Meeting ended at 4.20 p.m.

Planning Committee
24 March 2021

At a Meeting of the Planning Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m. involving participation by remote electronic means.

Present

Tom Marshall, Timothy Billings, Robert Barr, Ian Clarkson, Robert Foster, Christina Larsen, Shaun Macaulay, Ellen McMaster, Ronnie McNicol and Donald Reid.

In Attendance

J. Miller, Chief Planning Officer, L. Dempster, Technician, K. Gee, Technician (Planning); A. Craig, Senior Manager (Legal Services); and E. Gray and H. Clancy, Committee Services Officers (Chief Executive's Service).

Also in Attendance

R. Cowieson, L. Kay, P. Chandler (Friends of Millstone Point); P. Hawdon (Scottish Salmon Company); T. Wheeler and C. Horner (Arcus Consultancy).

Chair

Councillor Marshall in the Chair.

1. Declarations of Interest

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

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 25 February 2021 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. 19/00609/PPM: Site To East Of Millstone Point Lochranza Brodick Isle Of Arran

The Scottish Salmon Company have applied for planning permission for the installation and operation of an Atlantic Salmon Fish Farm comprising 12 x 120m circumference fish pens and an accompanying feed barge at the site to the East of Millstone Point, Lochranza, Isle of Arran. 436 objections and 19 comments of support were received and summarised in the report.

Mr Cowieson, accompanied by Mr Chandler and Ms Kay representing Friends of Millstone Point, addressed the Committee in support of the objections. Mr Cowieson advised of the main concern, namely the impact on the landscape, as the proposed location was wild, unspoilt and tranquil, with spectacular views and, with no road access, enjoyed a feeling of remoteness. The coast in this area has thousands of visitors each year being part of the Arran Coastal Way with the area sitting within a designated National Scenic Area (NSA), a location of exceptional beauty to be held

unspoilt in the Scottish national interest. The boundary of the NSA extends beyond the shoreline.

Mr Cowieson highlighted that the proposal was the equivalent of 8 football pitches in length only 200 yards from shore and referred to the problems encountered with fish farms, such as noise, visual impact, lights, pollution and the toxic chemicals used to control disease and parasite infestation. The overall impact would be a large amount of fish waste, scales, feed and chemicals pushed directly towards the shoreline when the wind blew from the east, which would have serious consequences for locals and tourists. Mr Cowieson referred to Nature Scotland's objection, the Carradale North salmon farm escape last year, and the likely impacts on the local economy on Arran with tourism generating some £60m to the island economy. Local employment is supported which is a good example of community wealth building.

Mr Wheeler and Ms Horner of Arcus Consulting, and Ms Hawdon of The Scottish Salmon Company, then addressed the Committee on behalf of the applicant, in response to the objectors.

Mr Wheeler referred to the Planning Officer's report which covered the issues the application raised, such as potential effects on the marine environment, smell and noise. The report stated that none of these matters created issues which should lead to a refusal of planning permission, and this conclusion was supported by SEPA and Marine Scotland. Through appropriate consultation with SSC, SEPA and Marine Scotland agreeable solutions had been identified and presented in support of the proposed development. The development would provide significant economic benefits to Arran with the recruitment of 6 full time members of staff, support 31 jobs in the supply chain and 6 wider jobs in Scotland with a gross added value of just under £6 million a year. Mr Wheeler advised that it had been suggested there could be adverse effects on tourism but there was no proven link between salmon farms and negative effects on tourist numbers, they could be a point of interest to visitors. It was not anticipated that the development would discourage visitor numbers due to limited visual effects, but the applicant was happy to explore local engagement opportunities to support the development of the Coastal Path.

Mr Wheeler highlighted that the Planning Officer's report concluded there would be no conflict with Policy 8 of the Local Development Plan, which supported development that would have positive effects on the vitality, vibrancy and viability of the Island but that the visual impact would harm the National Scenic Area and the isolated coast.

Ms Horner referred to the siting of the development stating the landscape designations as a whole would not be significantly adversely affected, this would be restricted to the coast immediately adjacent to the development resulting in very localised landscape, seascape and visual effects. She advised that the Scottish Salmon Company currently had 12 fish farms located within a National Scenic Area in Scotland and 2 sites located within 1km of isolated coast, which illustrated that a development of this nature could be accommodated within a nationally designated landscape. Predicted visibility of the development was restricted to 1km inland and 5.5km stretch along the coastline. When considering Policy 15, the National Scenic Area would not be compromised in relation to the need to protect existing sports and

recreational interests. The development could be supported in terms of planning policy and would support economic recovery and offer employment opportunities.

The objectors then had an opportunity to make brief final comments. Mr Chandler advised that the area was the only National Scenic Area in Ayrshire and that within the National Marine Plan and Local Development Plan there had to be economic benefits of national significance for this type of development to go ahead. Mr Chandler advised we were in a biodiversity and climate crisis and that a green recovery was required following the Covid-19 pandemic.

Members then asked questions of the objectors and applicants' representatives in respect of effects on tourism, chemicals used and the effects on other sea life, predator controls, the jobs associated with the development, the wider economic benefits, the Carradale North salmon farm escape and measures in place to prevent this happening on Arran.

The Chief Planning Officer then outlined the terms of the planning report and planning officer's recommendation.

Councillor Foster, seconded by Councillor McMaster, moved to refuse the planning application on the grounds that (a) the visual impact of the development would adversely affect the visual amenity of the area, the landscape quality of the water environment and the special qualities of the National Scenic Area, (b) the proposal does not align with Scotland's National Marine Plan or the emerging Clyde Marine Plan and (c) any economic value is not considered significant enough to overcome the adverse effect. The proposal is therefore contrary to Strategic Policy 1, Policy 15, Policy 22, Policy 24, Policy 25, and Strategic Policy 2 of the LDP.

There being no amendment the motion was declared carried.

The Chair agreed that the meeting be adjourned at 4.00 p.m. for a comfort break. The meeting reconvened at 4.10 p.m. with the same Members and officers present and in attendance, with the exception of Cllr Foster.

4.1 20/00942/PP: Site To South West Of Hunterston Coal Yard Fairlie Largs

ESB Asset Development UK Ltd has applied for planning permission for the installation of a synchronous compensator and ancillary infrastructure at Hunterston Coal Yard, Fairlie. One objection was received and summarised in the report.

Councillor Marshall, seconded by Councillor McMaster, moved to grant the application subject to conditions.

There being no amendment the motion was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed to grant the application subject to the following conditions:

1. That prior to the commencement of the development, details of the external finishes for the generator and flywheel building shall be submitted to the Council, as Planning Authority, for written approval. The development will thereafter proceed in accordance with any details as may be approved.
2. That prior to the commencement of the development, a Construction Management Plan, including details of routing of any abnormal loads, shall be submitted to the Council, as Planning Authority, for written approval. The development will thereafter proceed in accordance with any Plan as may be approved.
3. The development will be undertaken in accordance with the recommendations set out in Section 4.5 of the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey, prepared by Nevis Environmental dated September 2020, and submitted with this application.
4. That the Rating Noise level, as defined in BS 4142:2014+A1:2019, from the operation of the synchronous compensator and ancillary fixed plant must not exceed the background noise level at the curtilage of any noise sensitive premises existing or consented as of the date of the permission.

4.2 21/00054/PP: 9 Brisbane Street Largs KA30 8QW

MPB Structures Ltd has applied for planning permission for the demolition of an existing hotel building and erection of a new building comprising of 14 flatted dwellings with associated landscaping, car parking, cycle parking and bin/recycling store at 9 Brisbane Street, Largs. One objection and three letters of support were received and summarised in the report.

Councillor McNicol, seconded by Councillor Barr, moved to grant the application subject to conditions.

There being no amendment the motion was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed to grant the application subject to the following conditions:

1. That prior to the commencement of the development hereby approved, full details of the proposed finishing external materials shall be submitted for the written approval of North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority. The development shall then progress in accordance with such details as may be approved.
2. That prior to the commencement of the development hereby approved, full details of the proposed access and parking layout shall be submitted for the written approval of North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority. These details shall include confirmation that:

- i) The aisle width of the parking area is to be a minimum of 6m;
- ii) Visibility splays of 2.5metres by 20 metres, in both directions, are provided and maintained at the junction with the public road. No item with a height greater than 1.05 metre above adjacent carriageway level must be located within these sightline triangles;
- iii) No surface water is to be issued from the site onto the public road;
- iv) Vehicular access to the site to is be provided in the form of a minor commercial access footway crossing as detailed in sections 5.2 & 10.8 (and Fig 10.18) of the Roads Development Guidelines (single minor commercial access or car park up to 50 spaces footway crossing)

Thereafter, the proposed access and parking arrangements, which may be approved, shall be completed to the satisfaction of North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority. For the avoidance of doubt there shall be no means of direct access from the site to the trunk road either pedestrian or vehicular.

3. That prior to the first occupation of the flatted dwellinghouses, hereby approved, the landscaping shall be carried out in accordance with the approved landscaping plans. Thereafter, the landscaping shall be maintained in accordance with the Landscape Management Plan hereby approved to the satisfaction of North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority.
4. That notwithstanding the location of the bin store on the plans hereby approved, the bin store shall be located to the rear (east) of the flatted building hereby approved. Prior to the commencement of the development the applicant shall submit plans showing the location and appearance of the relocated bin store for the written approval of North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority. The development shall then progress in accordance with such details as may be approved, to the satisfaction of North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority.
5. That prior to the commencement of the development hereby approved, the applicant shall provide full details of the screen to be erected on the south facing third floor balcony for the written approval of North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority. Thereafter, the development shall progress in accordance with such details as may be approved.

5.1 21/00036/PP: SSE Anaerobic Digestion Plant, Dalry, KA24 4JJ

Barkip Biogas Ltd has applied for a section 42 application to remove condition 1 of planning permission 09/00444/PPM at SSE Anaerobic Digestion Plant, Dalry, KA24 4JJ. Six objections were received and summarised in the report.

Councillor McNicol, seconded by Councillor Barr, moved to grant the application.

There being no amendment the motion was declared carried.

6. Planning Enforcement Charter

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the updated Planning Enforcement Charter, set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Chief Planning Officer highlighted a planning authority must keep the enforcement charter under review and must update and republish it every 2 years. North Ayrshire Council's planning enforcement charter was last reviewed and republished May 2019.

The Committee agreed to approve the updated Planning Enforcement Charter set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

7. Policy Guidance Note: Housing in the Countryside

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the Draft Policy Guidance Note on Housing in the Countryside, set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Chief Planning Officer highlighted the document provided guidance to developers and applicants on the relevant Local Development Plan policies and matters that should be considered when approaching an application for the development of one or more houses in the countryside. The guidance note may also be referenced by Planning Officers when assessing the merit of an application for housing in the countryside and would be a material consideration in decision making.

The Chief Planning Officer undertook to add the Locality Partnerships into the consultation process.

The Committee agreed to (a) note the detail of the proposed guidance relating to Housing in the Countryside; and (b) approve the Draft Housing in the Countryside policy guidance note, set out at Appendix 1 to the report, for consultation.

The meeting ended at 5.00 p.m.

**Local Review Body
24 March 2021**

At a Meeting of the Local Review Body of North Ayrshire Council at 5.05 p.m. involving participation by remote electronic means.

Present

Tom Marshall, Timothy Billings, Robert Barr, Ian Clarkson, Christina Larsen, Shaun Macaulay, Ellen McMaster, Ronnie McNicol and Donald Reid.

In Attendance

J. Miller, Chief Planning Officer, L. Dempster, Technician, K. Gee, Technician (Planning); A. Craig, Senior Manager (Legal Services); and E. Gray and H. Clancy, Committee Services Officers (Chief Executive's Service).

Apologies

Robert Foster

Chair

Councillor Marshall in the Chair.

1. Declarations of Interest

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

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Local Review Body held on 25 February 2021 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Notice of Review: 20/00976/PP – Site adjacent to Graze Restaurant, 1 – 5 Crossroads, Dalry

The Chief Planning Officer advised the Local Review Body that the applicant had in error submitted a Notice of Review in respect of condition 4 associated with planning consent 20/00976/PP, when the review request should have related to a different condition.

The Local Review Body agreed to continue consideration of the Notice of Review to the next meeting of the Committee pending further clarification.

The Meeting ended at 5.10 p.m.

Planning Committee
29 March 2021

At a Special Meeting of the Planning Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m. involving participation by remote electronic means.

Present

Tom Marshall, Timothy Billings, Robert Barr, Ian Clarkson, Robert Foster, Christina Larsen, Shaun Macaulay, Ellen McMaster, Ronnie McNicol and Donald Reid.

Also Present

Ian Murdoch

In Attendance

J. Miller, Chief Planning Officer, K. Gee, Technician (Planning); A. Craig, Senior Manager (Legal Services); and A. Little and H. Clancy, Committee Services Officers (Chief Executive's Service).

Also in Attendance

H. Boyle, M. Grosvenor (Skelmorlie Community Council); F. Campbell (Burcote Wind); C. Wicks (ERG); and S. Winter (Hirst Planning).

Chair

Councillor Marshall in the Chair.

1. Declarations of Interest

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

2. 20/00248/PPM: Site To East Of Fardens Skelmorlie Ayrshire

Righill Wind Farm Ltd have applied for planning permission for the erection of 10 wind turbines with a maximum blade tip height of 149.9m with associated access and infrastructure at the site to East of Fardens, Skelmorlie. 186 objections and 39 comments of support were received and summarised in the report.

Ms Boyle and Mr Grovesnor representing Skelmorlie Community Council and Councillor Murdoch addressed the Committee in support of the objections.

Ms Boyle provided background information on the proposed site and the surrounding area highlighting nearby caravan park, the nursing homes within Skelmorlie, SSSI Site, Wild Land on the moors and the Roma fortlet. She asserted that the ultrasound low frequency noise would be unbearable and a health hazard to the Village and surrounding areas, standing in Muirshiel Regional Park, which was the only untouched land in North Ayrshire.

Mr Grovesnor advised he worked closely with Dr Yeland and Professor Alves-Pereira, experts in wind farm noise and infrasound and read out a statement they provided. The applicant's position statement advised that low frequency noise and

infrasound associated with wind turbines were below the level at which adverse health impacts occurred but, he advised, this ignored an abundance of evidence to show otherwise. Infrasound and low frequency noise had been an issue of public health for several decades and the infrasound emitted by wind turbines was in no way comparable to that which existed in the natural environment. Health Protection Scotland claimed there was no evidence of harm but this was contradicted by the WHO 2018 report. Mr Grovesnor also referred to Environmental Health officer comments and Skelmorlie Community Council objections in respect of the application.

Councillor Murdoch advised his main concern was for his constituents and the local environment and asserted that an alarming amount of concern around the proposed development had not been alleviated by the offer of community benefits. North Ayrshire Council had declared a climate emergency which would support clean energy generation however there were no operational turbines of this size in the UK. Councillor Murdoch advised that there were no operational turbines higher than 125m to blade tip or 2.5 to 3MW maximum and 4.2MW turbines would be the largest onshore turbines ever installed. He suggested that turbines of this size and output should be placed far away from populated areas and should be considered for offshore installation. The proposed development was around 1km from Skelmorlie, but the setback distance should be much greater than the proposed distance for turbines of this size. There was concern about the health effects of audible and inaudible noise, particularly from infrasound and traffic safety concerns. He advised the proposed development did not comply with the Local Development Plan and was within the Muirshiel Regional Park.

Mr Campbell of Burcote Wind then addressed the Committee on behalf of the applicant, in response to the objectors.

Mr Campbell gave some background information on ERG Ltd who have been operating in the energy sector for almost 80 years, actively contributing to the fight against climate change by investing in green energy, with over 250MW under construction in the UK. He advised that Righill Wind farm was the right development in the right place and would generate the equivalent to power almost 35,000 average households each year, roughly half of the households in North Ayrshire. The carbon payback period was estimated to be 1.4 years when compared to traditional carbon-based generation. Mr Campbell advised that nationally and locally we were transitioning to net zero emissions to benefit the environment, with North Ayrshire Council's target of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030. Renewable energy development would have a significant role to play in meeting climate change objectives, with wind energy development being the most cost-effective renewable energy technology. He advised there had been extensive engagement with the local community and there was strong evidence of support. A local procurement policy would be created to offer local contractors a 5% price advantage when tendering for contracts related to the wind farm and community ownership programmes also being explored to invest in the wind farm and share in the profits and returns. He also highlighted that the National Planning Framework and Local Development Plan both predated the climate change emergency declared by North Ayrshire Council.

He contended that in terms of the Reasons for Refusal, SP2 was not relevant, the proposal accords with Policy 29 and that the Landscape Capacity Study was too strategic to support the reasons for refusal.

The objectors then had an opportunity to make brief final comments. Mr Grovesnor advised that the research undertaken for the applicant was not suitable or supported by facts. Councillor Murdoch also highlighted that there were no operational turbines of 4.2MW or above in the United Kingdom.

Members then asked questions of the objectors and applicants' representatives in respect of public support, nearest residential properties to the proposed site, community benefits, transport management plan, impact of noise and infrasound.

The Chair agreed that the meeting be adjourned at 3.15 p.m. for a comfort break. The meeting reconvened at 3.30 p.m. with the same Members and officers present and in attendance.

The Chief Planning Officer then outlined the terms of the planning report and planning officer's recommendation.

Members asked questions and were provided further information in relation to Environmental Health comments on noise, landscape impact, shadow flicker and the Scottish Government Planning Policy on wind farms. Members were also advised that community benefit is not a material consideration for the planning determination process.

Councillor Foster, seconded by Councillor Barr, moved to refuse the planning application for the reasons set out in the officer's report.

There being no amendment the motion was declared carried.

The meeting ended at 4.25 p.m.

Staffing and Recruitment Committee
30 March 2021

At a Meeting of Staffing and Recruitment of North Ayrshire Council at 9.15am involving participation by remote electronic means.

Present

Joe Cullinane, John Bell, Alan Hill, Tom Marshall, Donald L Reid, Louise McPhater (Agenda Item 4 only) and Robert Foster (Agenda Item 5 only).

In Attendance

C. Hatton, Chief Executive, A. Sutton, Executive Director (Connected Communities), F. Walker, Head of Service (People and ICT) and C. Cameron (Director HSCP) (item 5 only).

Apologies

Marie Burns.

Chair

Joe Cullinane in the Chair.

1. Declarations of Interest

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

2. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Staffing and Recruitment Committee held on 12 March 2021 was confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Exclusion of the Public and Press

The Committee resolved, in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude from the Meeting, the press and the public for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

4. Head of Service (Connected Communities)

The Committee agreed at the shortleet stage to progress 4 candidates to interview, one candidate however withdrew prior to interview. The Committee therefore interviewed 3 candidates for the post of Head of Service (Connected Communities) and agreed to appoint Rhona Arthur to the post.

5. Additional Item of Business (Exempt Report)

The Committee considered the report presented by Director HSCP and agreed with the proposals outlined in the report.

The Meeting ended at 2.15pm.

Licensing Committee
21 April 2021

At a Meeting of the Licensing Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.00 a.m. involving participation by remote electronic means.

Present

Ronnie McNicol, Todd Ferguson, Robert Barr, Jean McClung, Davina McTiernan, Donald L. Reid, and Angela Stephen.

In Attendance

W. O'Brien, Solicitor (Licensing), A. Toal, Administrative Assistant (Licensing), D. Robertson, Enforcement Officer (Democratic Services) and H. Clancy, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's Service).

Also in Attendance

Inspector Andy Dolan and Sergeant Scott Barrie (Police Scotland).

Apologies

John Easdale and Scott Gallagher

Chair

Councillor McNicol in the Chair.

1. Declarations of Interest

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

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 March 2021 were confirmed and signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Review and Fixing of Taxi Scales (Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, Sections 17 to 18A)

Submitted report by the Head of Democratic Services on the Review and Fixing of Taxi Scales. The Minute of the Taxi Trade Consultation meeting was set out at Appendix A, the current Taxi Fare Scales were set out at Appendix B, the proposed Taxi Fares Scales (adopted by the Committee for the purpose of consultation on 10 February 2021) were set out at Appendix C, Economic Indicators were set out at Appendix D, and the proposed Taxi Fare Scales were set out at Appendix E to the report.

The Committee agreed to fix the Taxi Fares Scales, to take effect on Monday 24 May 2021. The Scales fixed were (i) the draft proposed scales set out at Appendix E to the report, with the following variations; (ii) the double fare for 25 December and 1 January (two days) was to extend also to 26 December and 2 January (so that the double fare covered a total of four days); and (iii) 26 December and 2 January were to be removed from Tariff 2.

4. Exclusion of the Public

The Committee resolved, under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude from the Meeting the press and the public, for Agenda Item 5 (Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 and other Licensing Statutes: Licensing Matters) on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of Exempt Information as defined in Section 50J of, and Schedule 7A to, the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

The 'Exempt Information' concerned is information of the type described in one or more of Paragraphs 3, 6, 14 and 15 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Act:

3. "Information relating to any particular applicant for, or recipient or former recipient of, any service provided by the authority."
6. "Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than the authority)."
14. "Any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime."
15. "The identity of a Protected Informant" - where "Protected Informant" is defined in Part III as a person who informs the Local Authority about a past, present or future crime, breach of statutory duty, breach of planning control, or nuisance."

5. Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 and other Licensing Statutes: Licensing Matters

Submitted report by the Head of Democratic Services on hearings to be determined and applications for the grant or renewal of licences, consents and permits, on hearings and on other matters, under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 and other Licensing legislation.

Appendix A: Hearings

5.1 Street Trader Employee Licence: STL/E/296 (New) Laura Henry

The applicant, having been duly cited to attend, joined the meeting at this point. A representative from Police Scotland was also in attendance.

The representative from Police Scotland addressed the Committee on the terms of a letter setting out their representation in respect of the application. Thereafter the applicant addressed the Committee on the issues raised and responded to questions.

Decision

Councillor Reid, seconded by Councillor McTiernan, moved that the Committee grant the application, subject to the Council's standard conditions in terms of Paragraph 5(1)(a) of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982. There being no amendment the motion was declared carried.

The applicant left the meeting at this point.

5.2 Taxi Driver's Licence: TDL/00792 (New) George Williams

The applicant, having been duly cited to attend, was not present. A representative from Police Scotland was in attendance.

The representative from Police Scotland addressed the Committee on the terms of a letter setting out their representation in respect of the application.

Decision

Councillor McNicol, seconded by Councillor Ferguson, moved that the Committee continue the application to a future meeting pending the conclusion of legal proceedings. There being no amendment the motion was declared carried.

5.3 Taxi Licence: TL/429 (New) & Taxi Driver's Licence: TDL/02197 (New) Gareth Wilkinson

The applicant, having been duly cited to attend, joined the meeting at this point. A representative from Police Scotland was also in attendance.

The representative from Police Scotland addressed the Committee on the terms of letters setting out their representation in respect of the applications. Thereafter the applicant addressed the Committee on the issues raised and responded to questions.

Decision

Councillor Ferguson, seconded by Councillor McNicol, moved that the Committee continue both applications to a future meeting pending the conclusion of legal proceedings. There being no amendment the motion was declared carried.

The applicant left the meeting at this point.

5.4 Private Hire Car Licence: PHCL/369 (New) Kelly Scott

The applicant, having been duly cited to attend, joined the meeting at this point.

Councillor Ferguson, seconded by Councillor Reid, moved that the Committee grant the application, subject to the Council's standard conditions in terms of Paragraph 5(1)(a) of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982. There being no amendment the motion was declared carried.

The meeting ended at 11.15 a.m.

At a Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m. involving participation by remote electronic means.

Present

Joe Cullinane, John Bell, Robert Foster, Alex Gallagher, Louise McPhater and Jim Montgomerie and Babs Mowat (Church Representative) and Jackie MacKenzie (Teaching Representative) (Agenda Items 1-3).

In Attendance

C. Hatton (Chief Executive), M. Boyd, Head of Service (Finance) and F. Walker, Head of Service (People and ICT)(Chief Executive's Service); R. McCutcheon, Executive Director, C. McAuley, Head of Service (Economic Development and Regeneration), Y. Baulk, Head of Service and R McGilvery, Senior Manager (Physical Environment) and M. Strachan, Senior Manager (Economic Development and Regeneration) (Place); A. Sutton, Executive Director, R. Arthur, Head of Service (Connected Communities), A. McClelland, Head of Service (Education) and L. Taylor, Senior Manager (Resources and Infrastructure) (Communities and Education); A. Sutherland, Head of Service (Children, Families and Justice) (HSCP); and M Sugden, Communications Officer, A. Little and H. Clancy, Committee Services Officers (Democratic Services).

Chair

Joe Cullinane in the Chair.

1. Declarations of Interest

In terms of Standing Order 10 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors, Councillor McPhater, declared an indirect pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 6, Community Investment Fund (CIF) Expenditure in relation to the application for funding from Irvine Youth Forum and took no part in the discussion or decision making.

2. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 23 February 2021 was confirmed and the Minutes authorised to be signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Proposal to establish a new primary school at Montgomerie Park, Irvine

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) on proposals for a new primary school with early learning and childcare provision at Montgomerie Park, Irvine. The Consultation Report on the responses to the online statutory public consultation that had been undertaken was attached at Appendix 1 to the report. The Senior Manager (Resources and Infrastructure) made reference to an error within the consultation report (Appendix 1), directing Members to the correction at Section 1.3 and 2.11 of the covering report.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the estimated timeframe of up to seven years to achieve full occupancy of the new school as a result of those children within the catchment already being settled in other local schools and not wishing to move to Montgomerie Park.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the content of the Consultation Report attached at Appendix 1; (b) establish a new non-denominational primary school at Montgomerie Park, Irvine from August 2023; and (c) amend the catchment area for Annick Primary School to establish the catchment area for the new primary school from January 2023.

4. Discretionary Fund

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the first phase of Discretionary Funding and proposals to redesign the fund in response to additional resource agreed with Scottish Government. Appendix 1 outlined the Amended Discretionary Fund Criteria and the Transition Fund Eligibility was set out at Appendix 2 to the report.

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

- the commencement of the Transition Fund, following the Cabinet Call-In period; and
- information already gathered on local businesses who may be eligible for support from the Transition Fund and who would require to evidence the impact of Covid restrictions on their operations.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note (i) the proposed changes to the North Ayrshire Discretionary Fund; and (ii) the proposals for a new North Ayrshire Business Transition Fund; and (b) approve (i) the updated Discretionary Fund criteria set out in Appendix 1; and (ii) the new Transition Funds criteria set out in Appendix 2 to the report.

5. A Local Letting Initiative for Council Housing on the Isle of Arran

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on proposals to introduce a Local Letting Initiative ahead of the allocation of new-build Council housing on Arran. Appendix 1 provided a number of examples of Local and Rural Letting Initiatives throughout Scotland and details of the virtual consultation meetings and email survey with stakeholders were provided at Appendix 2 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the Local Letting Initiative for Council housing on the Isle of Arran, as set out in the report.

6. Proposals for Community Investment Fund (CIF) Expenditure

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) on applications by Locality Partnerships to allocate CIF funding to proposed projects. Applications from Irvine Youth Forum and Kilwinning Rangers Youth Club were provided at Appendices 1 and 2, respectively.

The Cabinet agreed to approve (a) the CIF application in relation to Irvine Youth Forum in the amount of £100,000; and (b) the request to increase the previously agreed CIF application in relation to a multi-purpose youth and community hub – Kilwinning Rangers Juniors and Kilwinning Rangers Youth Club and award a further £15,000 to this project.

7. North Ayrshire Integration Joint Board Strategic Bridging Plan 2021- 22

Submitted report by the Director (HSCP) on the North Ayrshire IJB Strategic Bridging Plan 2021-22, approved by the Integration Joint Board on 18 March 2021. The Plan was published on 1 April 2021 and was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

Noted.

8. Community Payback Order Annual Report

Submitted report by the Director (HSCP) on the work undertaken in the last year through Community Payback Orders (CPO) with a particular focus on Unpaid Work Requirements. The CPO Annual Report was attached as an appendix to the report and outlined the wide range of projects and services undertaken during 2019/20.

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

- CPOs as a viable alternative to custody that required individuals to address and change their offending behaviour;
- details of behavioural changes that would be included in future reports.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 3.20 p.m.

Planning Committee

29 April 2021

At a Special Meeting of the Planning Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m. involving participation by remote electronic means.

Present

Tom Marshall, Timothy Billings, Robert Barr, Ian Clarkson, Christina Larsen, Shaun Macaulay, Ronnie McNicol and Donald Reid.

In Attendance

J. Miller, Chief Planning Officer, L. Dempster, Technician (Planning); A. Craig, Senior Manager (Legal Services); and A. Little and H. Clancy, Committee Services Officers (Chief Executive's Service).

Apologies

Robert Foster and Ellen McMaster

Chair

Councillor Marshall in the Chair.

1. Declarations of Interest

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

2. Ardrossan North Shore Development Framework

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the development of the Ardrossan North Shore Framework. The Framework was set out at Appendix 1 and comments received from the consultation set out at Appendix 2 to the report.

The Chief Planning Officer highlighted the Framework would inform the detailed proposals and be a material consideration in the determination of future planning applications for the site if approved. The framework was developed through analysis of how the Council's aspirations for the regeneration of the site could best be accommodated, technical information and cost.

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

- 20mph speed limit in the surrounding areas;
- coastal path currently used and fencing of the area;
- the Marina service area in proportion to the rest of the site; and
- depth of soil samples undertaken, soil material removed from the site, height of the site, and materials that may be imported or exported from the site during the remediation.

Councillor Marshall, seconded by Councillor Macauley, moved to approve the Ardrossan North Shore Development Framework.

Councillor McNicol, seconded by Councillor Barr, moved to not approve the Ardrossan North Shore Development Framework.

On a division and a roll call vote, there voted for the amendment, Councillors Barr and McNicol (2) and for the motion, Councillors Billings, Clarkson, Larsen, Macauley, Reid and Marshall (6), and the motion was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed to approve the Ardrossan North Shore Development Framework as set out at Appendix 1.

3. Notice under Section 179 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997: Kirkleegreen Reservoir, Beith

Submitted a report by the Chief Planning Officer to serve a notice under Section 179 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 requiring the clearance of all fly-tipped materials on the land for the abatement of the adverse impacts on the amenity of the local area at Kirkleegreen Reservoir, Beith.

The Chief Planning Officer advised the Committee an area of land beside the public road adjacent to Kirkleegreen Reservoir near Beith had been blighted by fly-tipping incidents involving a variety of construction waste and other bulky items such as scrap metal. Contact had been made with the owner to request the removal of all waste materials from the land and disposal to a licensed waste or recycling facility. To date, the land had not been satisfactorily cleared of the waste and the condition was harming the amenity of the rural area at Kirkleegreen Reservoir.

The Committee unanimously agreed to grant authority for the service of a Notice under Section 179 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 to improve and safeguard the amenity of the area at Kirkleegreen Reservoir, Beith.

4 21/00214/PP: Blairland Farm, Dalry KA24 4EJ

The Blair Trust Co Ltd have applied for a Section 42 planning application to vary conditions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of planning permission in principle ref. 15/00103/PPPM as amended by planning permission ref. 18/00328/PPM. 4 objections were received and summarised in the report.

Councillor Marshall, seconded by Councillor Barr, moved to grant the application subject to conditions.

There being no amendment the motion was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed to grant the application subject to the following conditions:

1. That, along with the first application for the approval of matters specified in conditions- (MSC), further intrusive site investigations shall be undertaken to establish the location and condition of the recorded mine entries, the results of which shall inform the layout of the detailed masterplan required by Condition 5 and any subsequent remediation works which may be required. Confirmation shall be submitted in writing to North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority and certified by a suitably qualified person that the required site investigations and any subsequent remedial works have been undertaken.
2. That, along with the first application for the approval of matters specified in conditions (MSC), a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, the results of which shall inform the layout of the detailed masterplan required by Condition 5, shall be submitted for the approval of North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority. Thereafter, the developer shall ensure that the approved programme of archaeological works is fully implemented and that all recording and recovery of archaeological resources within the development site is undertaken to the satisfaction of North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority.
3. That, along with the first application for the approval of matters specified in conditions (MSC), a scheme to treat the surface water arising from the site in accordance with the principles and practices contained in CIRIA's "Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems Manual", (November 2015), the results of which shall inform the layout of the detailed masterplan required by Condition 5, shall be submitted for the written approval of North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority. For the avoidance of doubt:
 - there shall be no drainage connections to the trunk road drainage system;
 - all foul water arising from the development must be collected and diverted away from operational railway land;
 - all surface water arising from the development must be collected and discharged no closer than 10 metres from operational railway land; and,
 - the SuDS scheme shall not be sited within 10 metres of railway infrastructure.Thereafter, the scheme as may be approved shall be implemented during the course of development (taking phasing into account) and maintained thereafter to the satisfaction of North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority.
4. That, along with the first application for the approval of matters specified in conditions (MSC), a detailed flood risk assessment (FRA) which identifies the areas of the site at risk of flooding, taking into account the impact of the development on flood risk elsewhere, shall be submitted for the approval of North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority. Thereafter, the FRA as may be approved shall inform the layout of the detailed masterplan required by Condition 5. For the avoidance of any doubt, no built development or infrastructure should be located within the 1 in 200-year functional floodplain.

5. That, along with the first application for the approval of matters specified in conditions (MSC), a development brief together with a masterplan for the site shall be submitted for the approval of North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority. The brief and masterplan shall take into account the findings of the further intrusive site investigations, archaeological investigations, the detailed SuDS scheme and flood risk assessments required by conditions 1, 2, 3 and 4 respectively. The development brief and associated masterplan shall take into account the principles of the Scottish Government's 'Designing Streets' and 'Designing Places' policy documents to the satisfaction of North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority. Thereafter, the details contained in the MSC application(s) shall accord with the development brief and masterplan as may be approved, to the satisfaction of North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority.
6. That application(s) for the approval of matters specified in conditions (MSC) shall include a scheme of mitigation measures for the design and construction of the houses to ensure that the noise levels at each plot shall not exceed the following:
 - (a) Daytime external level, 50-55dB LAeq 16hrs (0700-2300);
 - (b) Night time internal level, 30dB LAeq 8hrs (2300-0700); and
 - (c) Night time internal level, 45dB LA Max (2300-0700).Thereafter, the development shall be implemented only in accordance with the approved scheme of noise mitigation measures unless North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority gives written consent to any variation.
7. That, prior to the commencement of the development hereby approved, the developer shall implement the recommendations contained within the "Preliminary Geo-Environmental Risk Assessment including Coal Mining Risk Assessment Report" dated March 2014 by Waterman (document reference EED14275-100-R-1-2-1-JLD-PERA) and also the recommendations contained within the "Preliminary Slag Analysis Report" by Waterman dated 7th July 2014 (document reference EED14275-100-C-001-SC-HW) in order to assess the likelihood of any ground contamination present at the site. Remediation proposals shall also be presented to North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority in relation to any significant findings. All documentation shall meet BS 10175:2011 and shall be verified by a suitably qualified environmental consultant. Thereafter, the presence of any significant unsuspected contamination which becomes evident during the development of the site shall be reported to North Ayrshire Council and treated in accordance with a remediation scheme to be agreed in writing with North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority. On completion of the proposed works, written verification, detailing what was done by way of any remediation, shall also be submitted to North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority.
8. That prior to the commencement of the development hereby approved, the developer shall submit a Construction Management Strategy Plan for the written approval of North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority to include details of routing arrangements for construction traffic. For the avoidance of doubt, the Strategy shall be designed to reduce potential adverse impacts on

road safety and to minimise potential disruption and congestion for road users, pedestrians and local residents. Thereafter, the development shall progress in accordance with the Construction Management Strategy Plan as may be approved unless North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority gives written consent to any variation.

9. That prior to the commencement of the development hereby approved, the developer shall submit a Phasing Plan for the written approval of North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority to include all land within the application site, and the development shall progress in accordance with the approved Phasing Plan unless North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority gives written consent to any variation.
10. That prior to the commencement of the development hereby approved, the developer shall submit details of the lighting within the site for the written approval of North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority, after consultation with Transport Scotland.
11. That prior to the commencement of the development hereby approved, the developer shall submit details of the landscaping treatment along the boundary with the A737 Dalry bypass trunk road for the written approval of North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority, after consultation with Transport Scotland.
12. That, prior to the occupation of any dwellings within the development, a barrier/boundary feature of a type to be approved in writing by North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority in consultation with Transport Scotland shall be erected and maintained along the proposed boundary of the site with the A737 Dalry Bypass trunk road. In addition, the developer shall provide a suitable trespass proof fence adjacent to Network Rail's boundary, which shall include provision for access to facilitate future maintenance and renewal.
13. That the recommendations of the "Bat Survey Report" (ref. EED14275-100-R-2-2-1) and "Preliminary Ecological Survey" (ref. EED14275-100_R_1_1_2_WE) by Waterman shall be taken into account during the MSC stage and implemented during the course of the development to the satisfaction of North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority.
14. That the development shall initially be limited to a maximum of 25 house completions per annum unless otherwise agreed in writing between the developer and North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority. Thereafter, at 2 yearly intervals following the commencement of the development until its completion, a review of the build rate shall be undertaken by the developer to consider new house completions, new house sales and local primary school capacity. Each review shall propose the number of houses that can be completed during the following 2 year period (at a rate of not less than 25 units per annum), and shall be submitted for the consideration and written approval of North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority.

The meeting ended at 3.10 p.m.

Police and Fire and Rescue Committee
9 February 2021

17 May 2021 - At a Meeting of the Police and Fire and Rescue Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m. involving participation by remote electronic means.

Present

John Glover, Jimmy Miller, Ellen McMaster, Davina McTiernan and Donald L. Reid.

In Attendance

A. Craig, Senior Manager (Legal Services), A. Little, H. Clancy and C. Stewart, Committee Services Officers (Chief Executive's Service).

Also In Attendance

Chief Superintendent Hussain, Superintendent D. Frew and Temporary Chief Inspector A. Paterson (Police Scotland); Area Commander I. McMeekin, Temporary Group Commander E. Kenna and K. Rennie (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service).

Chair

Councillor Glover in the Chair.

Apologies

Todd Ferguson and Angela Stephen.

1. Declarations of Interest

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

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 27 October 2020 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

4. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 February 2021 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

5. Chair and Vice Chair Verbal Updates

There were no updates provided.

6. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Performance Report

Submitted report by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) which provided information on the progress against the North Ayrshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan for the period 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021. Appendix A to the report provided an analysis of the performance across six indicators, using the rolling three-year average as a basis of measuring performance.

Review of performance against the six indicators identified three indicators were below, two indicators were above, and one remained constant with no change in comparison to the three-year average. One indicator had seen a reduction in the three-year average by more than 13% and two others had reduced by 12% and 2%. The statistical information illustrated reductions in the total number of incidents by 1%, which included decreases in primary and secondary fires by 15% and non-fire casualties by 18%. Data on Home Fire Safety Visits, Fire Safety Audits and the retained duty system was also provided within the report.

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

- a refresh of the current Local Fire and Rescue Plan to align its review with the new Fire and Rescue Service Framework for Scotland that will be published in the next 12 months;
- how visits to care homes and sheltered housing were being carried out during the pandemic;
- funding for a range of youth engagement activities that include the Youth Volunteer Scheme; and
- the positive drop in fire related incidents in the previous year; and work that is ongoing with partner agencies to address fire related incidents in the Stevenston.

Noted.

7. Police Scotland Performance Report

Submitted report by Police Scotland on performance in relation to the North Ayrshire Local Police Plan for the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

The report provided details of North Ayrshire's performance including a 2.9% decrease in the total number of crimes. The executive summary outlined progress in the priority areas of drug supply and misuse, violence and anti-social behaviour, dishonesty and road safety. Statistical and contextual information was provided in respect of recorded incidents that included: -

- Operation TALLA, Police Scotland's operational response to the pandemic;
- a reduction in housebreaking, hate crimes, serious assaults, sexual crimes, road safety and road crimes;
- an increase in robbery, anti-social behaviour; and
- data on complaints about the Police and satisfaction surveys

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

- the use of Tasers by officers in North Ayrshire for the period 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021 that saw 112 incidents, the deployment of Tasers on 42 occasions and on those occasions when tasers were drawn, they were aimed 5 times, arced twice and discharged once;
- a significant increase in Anti-Social Behaviour incidents as a result of the inclusion of breaches of Covid restrictions within this statistical category;
- an Action Plan that has been put in place to address anti-social behaviour by groups of young people gathering in various locations in North Ayrshire; and
- the involvement of North Ayrshire officers in controlling disorder at the gathering of football supporters in George Square, Ibrox and surrounding areas;

The Committee expressed its appreciation of the work of Police Scotland and highlighted the efforts of Inspector Alison Wilson and her team in addressing anti-social behaviour at Ardeer Park and the peninsula and keeping the local community and Elected Members advised.

Noted.

8. North Ayrshire Local Police Plan

Submitted report by the Senior Manager (Legal Services) on the North Ayrshire Local Police Plan 2021/23. The Plan was attached at Appendix 1 to the report and detailed the five policing priorities:-

- Serious crime;
- Safer communities;
- Acquisitive crime;
- Community wellbeing; and
- Road policing.

Superintendent Frew provided information on the Plan which sets out the local policing priorities and objectives for North Ayrshire for 2021-23. The Plan reflected Community Planning Partners' priorities and was aligned with Police Scotland's and the Scottish Police Authority's Joint Strategy for Policing, "Policing for a safe, protected and resilient Scotland".

C The Committee agreed to recommend to the Council approval of the Local Policing Plan 2021-23 set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

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9. Public Engagement in relation to Body Worn Video Cameras

Submitted report by the Senior Manager (Legal Services) on the consultation response provided to Police Scotland in relation to the proposal to introduce the use of body worn video cameras for Police Officers. The response was attached at Appendix 1 to the report and provided high level feedback and concluded that, subject to the necessary training of officers, an operating code of practice and adherence to legislation in respect of data protection, the proposal would represent

a valuable step forward in modern day policing.

Noted.

9. Valedictory

The Committee took the opportunity to thank Chief Inspector Brian Shaw for his contribution to the work of the Committee and wished him every success in his new temporary role as Superintendent. Thanks were also extended to Group Commander Kenny Hankinson for his contribution to the Committee and the Committee wished him well in his retirement from Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

The Committee welcomed temporary Chief Inspector Alan Paterson (Police Scotland) and temporary Group Commander Eddie Kenna (Scottish Fire and Rescue) to the Committee and to their contribution to future meetings.

The meeting ended at 3.30 p.m.

Planning Committee

19 May 2021

At a Meeting of the Planning Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m. involving participation by remote electronic means.

Present

Tom Marshall, Timothy Billings, Robert Barr, Ian Clarkson, Robert Foster, Christina Larsen, Shaun Macaulay, Ellen McMaster, Ronnie McNicol and Donald Reid.

In Attendance

J. Miller, Chief Planning Officer, I. Davies, Senior Development Management Officer, L. Dempster, Technician, K. Gee, Technician (Planning); A. Craig, Senior Manager (Legal Services); and A. Little, C. Stewart and H. Clancy, Committee Services Officers (Chief Executive's Service).

Chair

Councillor Marshall in the Chair.

1. Declarations of Interest

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

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on (i) 24 March, (ii) 29 March and (iii) 28 April 2021 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3.1 21/00228/PP: Ardeer Primary School, Clark Crescent, Stevenston, KA20 3LZ

North Ayrshire Council has applied for planning permission for the change of use of open space to extend school grounds at Ardeer Primary School, Clark Crescent, Stevenston. Two objections were received and summarised in the report.

Councillor Marshall, seconded by Councillor Foster, moved to grant the application subject to a condition.

There being no amendment the motion was declared carried, Councillor Reid dissenting.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed to grant the application subject to the following condition:

1. That, prior to the commencement of the development, details of the boundary fence shall be submitted to the Council, as Planning Authority, for approval. Thereafter the development shall be implemented in accordance with such details as may be approved.

3.2 21/00233/PP: 16 - 18 Dockhead Street, Saltcoats, KA21 5EG

Mr Ewan McLaughlin has applied for planning permission for the change of use of rear area to beer garden with formation of external seating area and erection of 2.5m high palisade fence to rear including removal of Condition 1 of 06/00401/PP at 16 – 18 Dockhead Street, Saltcoats. One objection was received and summarised in the report.

Councillor Reid, seconded by Councillor Clarkson, moved to refuse the application on the grounds of noise pollution and disturbance to the occupiers of nearby properties.

Councillor Marshall, seconded by Councillor McNicol, moved to grant the application subject to conditions.

On a division and a roll call vote, there voted for the amendment, Councillors Barr, Foster, Larsen, Macauley, McMaster, McNicol and Marshall (7) and for the motion, Councillors Billings, Clarkson and Reid (3), and the amendment was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed to grant the application subject to the following conditions:

1. That the use of the land hereby approved shall cease and all tables and chairs be removed by 20th May 2022, all to the satisfaction of North Ayrshire Council, as Planning Authority.
2. That full details of the fence and gate for the southern boundary shall be submitted to North Ayrshire Council, as Planning Authority. Any details as may be agreed shall be fully implemented within 3 months of the date of this decision, unless otherwise agreed in writing by North Ayrshire Council, as Planning Authority.

4.1 21/00159/PP: Site To South East Of Hunterston B Power Station West Kilbride

Scottish Power Energy Networks has applied for planning permission for the erection of 132kV substation, including detailed siting, design, external appearance, landscaping and means of access at site to south east of Hunterston B Power Station, West Kilbride. One objection was received and summarised in the report.

Councillor Marshall, seconded by Councillor Barr, moved to grant the application.

There being no amendment the motion was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed to grant the application.

4.2 21/00324/PP: 45 Stuart Street, Millport, Ayrshire KA28 0AG

The Cumbrae Forum has applied for planning permission for the change of use from Class 1 (Retail) to Class 2 (Office and Professional) at 45 Stuart Street, Millport. No objections were received.

Councillor Marshall, seconded by Councillor Barr, moved to grant the application.

There being no amendment the motion was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed to grant the application.

5. Notice under Section 179 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997: 9, 11 And 13 Townhead Street, Stevenston, KA20 3AQ

Submitted report by the Chief Planning Officer to serve a Notice under Section 179 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 requiring proposed maintenance of land for the abatement of the adverse impact on the local area at 9, 11 and 13 Townhead Street, Stevenston.

The Chief Planning Officer advised the Committee that the property was a two-storey building with a yard at the side (east) and rear (south) which had been unoccupied since approx. 2014. Complaints about the condition of the yard and the building in general were received in February 2021. The yard to the side has again been subject to dumping of refuse with windows on the upper floor of the property smashed. The owner has not responded to contact made in February, March and April 2021 to request the removal of refuse from the yard and for the windows to be boarded or taken any action to address these matters. The committee was advised that Streetscene would be taking steps to remove refuse which appeared to be on public land outwith the site.

The Committee unanimously agreed to (a) grant authority for the service of a Notice under Section 179 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 requiring proposed maintenance of land for the abatement of the adverse impact on the local area at 9, 11 and 13 Townhead Street, Stevenston; and (b) request North Ayrshire Council Communications publish details of Amenity Notices approved by the Planning Committee.

The meeting ended at 3.00 p.m.

Local Review Body 19 May 2021

At a Meeting of the Local Review Body of North Ayrshire Council at 3.10 p.m. involving participation by remote electronic means.

Present

Tom Marshall, Timothy Billings, Robert Barr, Ian Clarkson, Robert Foster, Christina Larsen, Shaun Macaulay, Ellen McMaster, Ronnie McNicol and Donald Reid.

In Attendance

I. Davies, Planning Adviser to the LRB, L. Dempster, Technician, K. Gee, Technician (Place); A. Craig, Legal Adviser to the LRB (Legal Services); and A. Little, C. Stewart and H. Clancy, Committee Services Officers (Chief Executive's Service).

Chair

Councillor Marshall in the Chair.

1. Declarations of Interest

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

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Local Review Body held on 24 March 2021 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Notice of Review: 20/00976/PP – Site adjacent to Graze Restaurant, 1 – 5 Crossroads, Dalry

Submitted report by the Head of Service (Democratic Services) on a Notice of Review submitted by the applicant in respect of a condition applied to a planning permission granted by officers under delegated powers

The Notice of Review documentation, Planning Officer's Report of Handling, Location Plan, Planning decision notice, further representations by interested parties and the applicant's response to the further representations were provided as appendices to the report.

The Planning Adviser to the Local Review Body summarised the Notice of Review submitted by the applicant, the Report of Handling submitted by the appointed officer, the representations received and policies affecting the application. Photographs and plans of the site were displayed.

The Local Review Body unanimously agreed that enough information had been provided to determine the review request.

Councillor McNicol seconded by Councillor McMaster, moved that the Local Review Body uphold the officer's decision and retain condition 6 of the planning permission.

There being no amendment the motion was declared carried.

The Meeting ended at 3.25 p.m.

Staffing and Recruitment Committee
21 May 2021

At a Meeting of Staffing and Recruitment of North Ayrshire Council at 9.00 a.m. involving participation by remote electronic means.

Present

Joe Cullinane, John Bell, Marie Burns, Alan Hill, Tom Marshall, Donald L Reid, Robert Foster (Item 5a only), Davina McTiernan (Item 5a only).

In Attendance

C. Hatton, Chief Executive, F. Walker, Head of Service (People & ICT) and A. Sutherland, Head of Service (Children, Families & Justice) (Item 5a only).

Chair

Joe Cullinane in the Chair.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest

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

3. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Staffing and Recruitment Committee held on 30 March 2021 was confirmed and the Minute and signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

4. Exclusion of the Public and Press

The Committee resolved, in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude from the Meeting, the press and the public for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

5. Recruitment

5.1 Chief Social Work Officer

The Committee considered applications for the position of Chief Social Work Officer and agreed not to proceed with the recruitment of this position at this time.

5.2 Head of Service (Democratic Services/Monitoring Officer)

The Committee considered applications for the position of Head of Service (Democratic Services/Monitoring Officer) and agreed that 3 candidates would progress to the next stage of the recruitment process.

The Meeting ended at 9.45 a.m.

Cabinet
25 May 2021

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

Present

Joe Cullinane, John Bell, Alex Gallagher, Louise McPhater and Jim Montgomerie; and Andrew Bruce and Babs Mowat (Church Representatives) and Jackie MacKenzie (Teaching Representative) (Agenda Items 1-5).

In Attendance

C. Hatton (Chief Executive), A. Fraser, Head of Democratic Services, M. Boyd, Head of Service (Finance) and F. Walker, Head of Service (People and ICT) (Chief Executive's Service); R. McCutcheon, Executive Director, D. Hammond, Head of Service (Commercial), Y. Baulk, Head of Service and A. Piatek-Bednarek, Senior Manager (Physical Environment), C. McAuley, Head of Service, J. McLachlan, Senior Manager (Economic Policy) and D. Brennan, Graduate Economist, (Economic Development and Regeneration (Place)); A. Sutton, Executive Director and A. McClelland, Head of Service (Education) (Communities and Education); C. Cameron, Director (Health and Social Care Partnership), K. Yeomans, Director and A. Laurenson, Senior Manager (Growth and Investment); and J. Hutcheson, Senior Communications Officer, A. Little, H. Clancy and C. Stewart, Committee Services Officers (Democratic Services).

Apologies

Robert Foster.

Chair

Joe Cullinane in the Chair.

1. Chair's Remarks

In terms of Standing Order 9.4, the Chair advised that Item 8. Inclusive Economy Dashboard would be considered following Agenda Item 4.

2. Declarations of Interest

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

3. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 27 April 2021 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

4. School Attainment Results 2019 and 2020

Submitted report and presentation by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) on the overall performance of the 2019 and 2020 North Ayrshire Council school leavers as highlighted in the INSIGHT benchmarking tool, and Curriculum for Excellence attainment levels in literacy and numeracy for 2019. Graphs appended to the report provided information in respect of Improving attainment in Literacy and Numeracy (Appendix 1), Improving attainment for all (Appendix 2), Attainment vs. Deprivation (Appendix 3), Increasing Post-School Participation (Appendix 4), Attainment in Broad General Education – Attainment of Curriculum for Excellence Level (ACEL) in P1, P4, P7 and S3 (Appendix 5) and the gap between pupils living in the most deprived vs. those living in the least deprived SIMD areas, in primary schools, largely in line with national levels in 2019 (Appendix 6).

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

- a dip in attainment of Literacy at Level 5 (attained through internal assessment) in 2020, that could be as a result of fluctuation in cohort groupings, and work by schools to maximise attainment at all levels, including Level 5;
- North Ayrshire continuing to outperform locally, regionally and with its virtual comparator and being close to reaching the national performance; and
- information in respect of domestic abuse for 2020 that was not available but would be included in future reports.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note (i) the content of the report, including the progress being made by learners, specifically in literacy and numeracy; and (ii) the achievements of school leavers in SQA examinations in 2019 and 2020; and (b) approve the measures being taken to implement learning recovery and to make further improvements to attainment and achievement levels across all schools.

5. Inclusive Economy Dashboard

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the proposed Inclusive Economy Dashboard, developed to measure social, economic and environmental wellbeing in North Ayrshire. The Draft Inclusive Economy Dashboard was attached at Appendix 1 and the Inclusive Economy Dashboard Technical Note at Appendix 2 to the report.

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

- the lack of metrics for community wealth-building across all local authorities in the UK and work with partners, including the Centre for Economic Strategies (CLES), in exploring the development of a set of indicators for community wealth-building; and
- work by the Business Development Team to identify metrics for community wealth-building when gathering information from local businesses on traditional metrics.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the activity outlined as part of the Council's Inclusive Economy journey, including the delivery of the Community Wealth Building strategy as a practical means to achieve an inclusive and wellbeing economy; and (b) approve the proposed Inclusive Economy Dashboard set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

6. Educational Achievement of Care Experienced Learners in North Ayrshire

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) on Curriculum for Excellence Broad General Education (BGE) attainment levels of care experienced learners in 2019, Senior Phase attainment of care experienced learners for 2019 and 2020, and post-school participation of care experienced learners. Graphs appended to the report provided information in relation to the total number of care experienced young people in North Ayrshire at the annual census date in September (Appendix 1) and by primary and secondary (Appendix 1a). Attainment in Literacy and Numeracy in Broad General Education for care experienced learners was illustrated at Appendix 2. Appendix 3 provided information in relation to Attainment in Literacy and Numeracy and overall attainment in all qualifications at Senior Phase level for care experienced school leavers. Appendix 3a showed that since 2012, North Ayrshire performance has been above the national figure every year. A comparison between North Ayrshire/National care experienced school leavers in terms of levels of qualification achieved, was outlined at Appendix 3b. Appendix 4 detailed information on post-school participation of care experienced school leavers.

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

- 17% of North Ayrshire care experienced learners who attained 1 Higher compared to the national attainment rate of 10%;
- plans for care experienced learners that included the roll out of the successful intensive support network developed jointly by HSCP and Education at Greenwood and Elderbank Primary schools;
- the appointment of a Quality Improvement Officer who would have an overview of all care experienced learners and their educational outcomes;
- funding from the Scottish Government to support care experienced learners and the involvement of care experienced learners to identify the supports that they required; and
- the introduction of a Mentoring Programme through MCR Pathways in Auchenhavie Academy for additional support needs and care experienced learners that had now been expanded to 6 further schools.

The Cabinet agreed to note (i) the content of the report and the progress being made by care experienced learners, specifically in literacy and numeracy and (ii) the achievement of school leavers SQA examinations.

7. Education Service Standards and Quality Report 2019-20 and Future Performance Reporting Update

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) to seek approval for the Education Service's Standards and Quality report for the academic year 2019-20 and to update the Cabinet on the future approach to performance reporting. The Education Service's Standards and Quality report for the 2019-20 academic year was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to approve (i) the Education Service's Standards and Quality report for the 2019-20 academic year provided at Appendix 1 and (ii) the proposed revised approach to aligning Education Service's annual service planning to the National Improvement Framework priorities.

8. Equalities Mainstreaming and Outcomes Report 2019-20 and Equality Outcomes 2021-2025

Submitted a report by the Head of Service (Democratic Services) on the Equalities Mainstreaming and Outcomes Report 2019-20 and Equality Outcomes 2021-2025. The Equalities Mainstreaming and Outcomes Report 2019-20 was attached at Appendix 1 and Employee Statistics at Appendix 1a. Appendix 2 provided information on the four-year review of outcomes, worked as part of the Ayrshire Equality Partnership to develop new Equality Outcomes for 2021 – 2025 and the Equal Pay Statement was outlined at Appendix 3 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to approve (i) the content of the Equalities Mainstreaming and Outcomes Report for 2019-20 set out at Appendix 1 to the report, (ii) the Equality Outcomes for 2021– 2025 at Appendix 2 and (iii) the Equal Pay Statement 2021 – 2024 at Appendix 3 to the report.

9. Procurement Annual Activity Report (2019-20)

Submitted a report by the Head of Service (Finance) on Procurement activity for the period 2019/20 and outline progress during 2020-21 on the use of local suppliers in Procurement activity. The Procurement Activity Report 2020-21 was attached at Appendix 1 to the report and provided information on the number of procurement exercises undertaken in the last year, the number of contracts awarded, the total procurement expenditure by the Council and the categories of goods and services purchased.

Cabinet was advised of an error in the table at Section 2.8. The spend analysis for Hub South West Largs DBFM Co Ltd should be shown as £4,104,000.

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

- accurately reporting our local spend and tracking the spend with other businesses within and further down the supply chain;

- top suppliers that include the South West Hub (SWH) which was procured as a Lot to achieve cross development benefit in terms of cost and work that would be done to identify the spend with Ayrshire based businesses within the SWH Lot;
- work to capture the spend across Ayrshire as a region, the spend on services and contracts that had been brought back in-house, sub-contractors and supply chain opportunities and the postcode location of where invoices were paid;
- the setting of a new target if not part of the SWH; and
- details of the combined spend of the pan-Ayrshire authorities within Ayrshire that was provided at Section 2.15 of the report.

Noted.

10. Ayrshire Flood Risk Management Strategy and Plan

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the progress and next steps in relation to the Second Cycle of the Ayrshire Flood Risk Management Strategy and Ayrshire Flood Risk Management Plan.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the progress to date in developing the Second Cycle of the Ayrshire Flood Risk Management Strategy and Ayrshire Flood Risk Management Plan; (b) approve the list of 'Prioritised Measures' for North Ayrshire for inclusion in the forthcoming Second Cycle Ayrshire Flood Risk Management Strategy and Ayrshire Flood Risk Management Plan; and (c) delegate to the Executive Director (Place) authority to approve the subsequent publication of the Ayrshire Flood Risk Management Plan (Supplementary Part) prior to 31 July 2021.

11. Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy (ESCCS) 2021-23

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the proposed Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2021-23, which provided a roadmap of actions to achieve net-zero carbon status across North Ayrshire by 2030. The Strategy was attached at Appendix A to the report

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

- work with the Youth Participation Team on attendance at the Steering Group to capture their views; and
- plans for a launch event for the Strategy that would be announced shortly.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the positive climate impacts of the previous 2006 Carbon Management Plan and two previous Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategies which had been in place since 2014 and 2017, and; (b) approve the proposed third Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2021-23 attached at Appendix A to the report.

12. North Ayrshire Council Electric Vehicle (EV) Strategy (2021-2025)

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the Council's first Electric Vehicle (EV) Strategy (2021-2025) and the introduction of a tariff for the public use of Electric Vehicle charging points. The Strategy was attached at Appendix A and outlined the actions to achieve an increase in the number of EVs being used throughout North Ayrshire by creating a robust network of EV charge points. Appendix B provided a detailed description of EV charge point tariff proposals

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to details of how to pay at electric vehicle charge points, tariffs and overstay fees that was outlined at Appendix B to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to approve (i) the draft Electric Vehicle Strategy for implementation and publication and (ii) the introduction of a tariff and overstay fee for Council owned publicly available charge points

13. The Great Harbour, Irvine

Submitted a report by the Director (Growth and Investment) on the development of proposals for Ayrshire Growth Deal investment in the Great Harbour, Irvine. The report noted that the Maritime Mile proposals would be the first phase of development within the wider Great Harbour area and would involve an investment in placemaking, destination development and tourism through three activity hubs. Appendix 1 to the report illustrated the plan/visuals for the Maritime Mile.

The Cabinet agreed to approve (i) the further development of proposals to the Full Business Case or tender stage following formal approval of the Outline Business Case by the Scottish Government, with associated expenditure of up to £635,000; and (ii) further engagement with the community on a development framework and detailed designs for the Great Harbour.

The meeting ended at 4.25 p.m.

Audit and Scrutiny Committee
1 June 2021

At a Meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.00 a.m. involving participation by remote electronic means.

Present

Marie Burns, Margaret George, Alan Hill, Davina McTiernan, Tom Marshall, Donald Reid and John Sweeney.

In Attendance

A. Sutton, Executive Director, D. Walkinshaw, Manager and S. Lauder (Head Teacher) (Communities and Education); C. Hope, Senior Manager, Physical Environment and I. Davies, Senior Development Management Officer, Economic Development and Regeneration (Place); M. Boyd, Head of Finance, D. Forbes, Senior Manager (Financial Management), P. Doak, Senior Manager (Internal Audit, Risk and Fraud) and A. Fenton, Team Manager (Finance and Corporate Support); N. McIlvanney, Strategy and Programme Manager (Growth and Investment); A. Fraser, Head of Democratic Services, A. Craig, Senior Manager, Legal Services, I. Hardy, Corporate Policy Service Lead, and A. Little, C. Stewart and D. McCaw, Committee Services Officers (Chief Executive's Service).

Also In Attendance

K. Watt (Deloitte).

Chair

Councillor Burns in the Chair.

1. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed Councillor McTiernan to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee as a replacement for Councillor Brahim.

The Chair also intimated best wishes to Paul Doak, in his new promoted post, and Andrew Fraser, for a long and happy retirement, and thanked them both for their work with the Committee.

2. Declarations of Interest

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

3. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on 9 March 2021 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

4. External Audit Report on Audit Dimensions and Best Value for 2021/21

Submitted report by the Head of Service (Finance), and received a verbal report by the External Auditor, on the findings from the External Audit Report on Audit Dimensions and Best Value for 2020/21 which summarised the external auditor's conclusions across four audit dimensions, within the scope of the 2020/21 audit work, and the review of arrangements made by the Council for securing Best Value. The full External Audit Report was detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

Members were provided with clarification in terms of short- and medium-term financial sustainability around funding gaps and the financial risk and pressures over the medium to longer term.

The Committee agreed (a) to note (i) the findings contained in the External Auditor's very positive Audit Dimensions and Best Value report detailed at Appendix 1 to the report; and (ii) the sector developments as outlined in the report; and (b) to receive the External Auditor's Annual Report on the accounts to the meeting to be held on 14 September 2021.

5. Accounting Policies 2020/21

Submitted report by the Head of Service (Finance) on the Accounting Policies to be adopted in preparation of the Council's Annual Accounts for the year to 31 March 2021. The draft Accounting Policies proposed for adoption were detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

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

- established principles allowing the carry forward of funds where delays had resulted from the Covid-19 pandemic and on how this would be reflected within accounts;
- narrative reports being provided alongside the Accounts on the impact of Covid-19 on delivery of services and any new services provided as a result of the pandemic; and
- comparison of variances between underspends and overspends which would be detailed in financial performance reports through the course of the year.

The Committee agreed to approve the Accounting Policies as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

6. Annual Governance Statement 2020-21

Submitted report by the Head of Service (Finance) on the Council's Annual Governance Statement for 2020-21 which would be included within the draft Annual Accounts. The Annual Governance Statement, detailed at Appendix 1 to the report, outlined the governance framework in place and changes which had been made to strengthen the framework during 2020-21.

The Committee agreed to approve the draft Annual Governance Statement as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

7. Internal Audit Reports Issued

Submitted report by the Head of Service (Finance) on the findings of Internal Audit work completed during March and April 2021. The findings from eight audit assignments were detailed at Appendix 1 to the report, together with the respective executive summaries and action plans.

Members asked questions in relation to the audits detailed and were provided with further information in relation to the following:-

Parent Pay System

- the lessons learned in terms of rollout of the Parent Pay system in relation to cashless school meal provision;
- the preparation of written procedures for Parent Pay for both school-based staff and parents/carers in order to address the inconsistent approach when dealing with pupil debt;
- provision of a new system regarding cashless school meals currently out to tender;
- confirmation that the debt figure in terms of the cashless school meals system was cumulative, having been accrued over the lifetime of Parent Pay, and was not an annual figure;

Internet and Email Controls

- the lack of guidance and process in terms of shared email boxes within Microsoft Outlook and the removal of employees who should no longer have access;
- the shared email boxes issue being linked to the mover process, with an update to be provided to the Committee through the follow-up process;
- monitoring of Councillor Brahim's email account by Member Services for a short period of time prior to being closed;

Accounts Payable Transaction Testing Q4

- assurances that the correct systems were in place and that no additional controls were required in this regard; and
- three areas being progressed by the service in terms of financial management training, a review to strengthen procedures and a review of approval levels.

The Committee agreed to note the outcomes from the Internal Audit work completed as set out in the report.

8. Internal Audit and Corporate Fraud Action Plans: Quarter 4 Update

Submitted report by the Head of Service (Finance) on the progress made by Council Services in implementing the agreed actions from Internal Audit and Corporate Fraud reports as at 31 March 2021. Full details of 11 actions which were not completed within the agreed timescales were set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

Members were provided with clarification in terms of the procedure when an employee moved jobs or left the Council whereby an action would be reallocated to the direct replacement or to another employee within the service.

The Committee agreed to note (i) the current position with the implementation of Internal Audit and Corporate Fraud actions; and (ii) that those Services which had not implemented actions within the previously agreed timescales would be challenged.

9. Internal Audit Annual Report 2020-21

Submitted report by the Head of Service (Finance) on the work of Internal Audit during 2020-21 and detailing an opinion on the governance, risk management and internal control environment of the Council. The full report was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Committee agreed to note (i) the content of the annual report detailed at Appendix 1 to the report and (ii) the opinion of the Senior Manager on the Council's governance, risk management and internal control environment.

10. Corporate Fraud Team Annual Report 2020-21

Submitted report by the Head of Service (Finance) on the work of the Corporate Fraud Team during 2020/21, where 265 referrals for investigation had been received.

The Senior Manager (Internal Audit, Risk and Fraud) highlighted investigations which had been carried out across a range of areas including employee-related matters as well as Council Tax, Discretionary Housing Payments, Scottish Welfare Fund, Blue Badges and Housing tenancy issues. He advised that the Team had commenced formal joint working with the DWP Single Fraud Investigation Service (SFIS) in cases where there were suspected frauds relating to both Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction, although this had been suspended during the Pandemic.

Members were provided with further information in relation to the process in terms of blue badge referrals and on misuse of blue badges. Members were advised by the Senior Manager (Internal Audit, Risk and Fraud) to pass on any concerns in relation to this matter to the Team to investigate.

The Committee agreed to note the work carried out by the Corporate Fraud Team as detailed in the report.

11. Supporting North Ayrshire Together: Update on our response to the Coronavirus Pandemic

Submitted report by the Head of Democratic Services providing an update on how the Council had worked alongside partners and communities to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic as at 23 March 2021 (one year since the initial lockdown period). The full report was detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Committee was advised that this information was being presented to Audit and Scrutiny prior to Cabinet and that the year-end performance information would be presented to Cabinet initially and then to Audit and Scrutiny in terms of the usual process.

The Committee agreed to note the response by the Covid-19 pandemic to 23 March 2021.

12. Growth and Investment Governance Framework

Submitted report by the Director (Growth and Investment) on North Ayrshire Council's internal governance arrangements for managing the Growth and Investment project development stages, including Ayrshire Growth Deal projects. Appendix 1 to the report set out a framework to support internal programme and project management procedures and to provide robust and effective project delivery mechanisms.

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

- the lack of representation of some Council political groups on the Joint Committee, Programme or Project Boards, with Councillor Marshall expressing his dissent in this regard and advising that he would progress this through a different forum;
- the operational and strategic aspects of the Growth Deal Programmes in terms of the elements which would be reported to Cabinet and those which would be progressed by Officers; and
- the Ayrshire Growth Deal proposals were only one of a number of considerations relating to Hunterston and Council had written to Scottish Ministers seeking the establishment of a Taskforce to consider all strategic matters relating to the Hunterston sites

The Committee agreed to approve the Growth and Investment Governance Framework as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

13. Remote Access Controls: Education Network: Internal Audit Progress Update

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) providing an update on the Internal Audit Report Management Action Plan and the Digital Strategy Review. The full Internal Audit Report was provided at Appendix 1 to the report. Appendices 2 and 3 detailed standard procedures which have been developed and communicated to all schools and ICT technicians and a Working Together Agreement been signed off by Heads of Service from both Education and ICT, respectively.

The Committee agreed to note progress in relation to (i) the execution of the Internal Audit Management Action Plan; and (ii) the Digital Review Strategy, as detailed in the report.

14. Economic Development and Regeneration Services Update: Seafield School, Eglinton Road, Ardrossan

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the actions being taken in respect of the Former Seafield School, Ardrossan.

In terms of the future use of the site, it was noted that discussions had been held between Council Officers from Economic Development and Regeneration Services and the owner, who had undertaken to produce a Feasibility Study in relation to the type of development which could utilise the site. The Council's Regeneration Delivery Plan sets out sites and places where collaborative working between business and communities could be identified to facilitate regeneration of an area. In line with this, the Council's Economic Development and Regeneration Service had agreed to support the development of a Feasibility Study for the Seafield site.

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

- each locality having met with the Regeneration Team to put forward proposals regarding derelict land and buildings which had been neglected across North Ayrshire;
- the benefit of the establishment of a register of all derelict areas within Town Centres to ensure proactive work to resolve problem areas; and
- there being no requirement by the Committee for a further report in relation to the Seafield School site.

The Committee agreed (a) that the Economic Development and Regeneration Team produce a register of derelict sites across North Ayrshire; (b) that a report be submitted to a future meeting on proposals to tackle the derelict sites on a proactive basis; (c) to note (i) the update provided and (ii) that no further report would be required by the Committee in terms of the Seafield School site.

15. Accounts Commission's Report: Local Government in Scotland: Financial Overview 2019-20

Submitted report by the Head of Service (Finance) of the findings of the recently published Accounts Commission's Report on the Financial Overview 2019/20 of Local Government in Scotland.

The report analysed the annual accounts produced by Councils and IJBs, together with the reports of each body's external auditors, to identify performance, highlight challenges faced and assess responses to those challenges. To support the scrutiny of public bodies' response to the Covid-19 pandemic, Audit Scotland published a guide for Audit and Risk Committees. Links to the full Financial Overview 2019-20 report and the Covid-19 Guide for Audit and Risk Committees were embedded within the report. The impact of the historic Scottish Government funding trend on North Ayrshire was summarised in Appendix 1 to the report.

The Committee agreed to note (i) the findings of the recent Accounts Commission report; and (ii) the current position regarding North Ayrshire and the Integration Joint Board in relation to the findings.

16. Urgent Items

The Chair agreed that the following item be considered as a matter of urgency to allow timeous progression of the matter.

16.1 SEPA Reclassification of North Coast as Area of Potential Flooding

Councillor Hill raised the matter of the reclassification by SEPA of the North Coast as an area of potential flooding and expressed concern in terms of the potential impact on the house market. The possible impact on housing land supply, as well as the overall strategy of the Local Development Plan, was also discussed.

The Committee agreed that this matter be progressed by the Senior Manager Legal Services who undertook to raise the issue with (i) the Flood Team and SEPA in the first instance and (ii) the Senior Management Development Officer in the Planning Service.

The meeting ended at 11.40 a.m.