

Cabinet
30 November 2021

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; Elizabeth Turbet (Church Representatives) and Jackie MacKenzie (Teaching Representative) (Agenda Item 3).

In Attendance

C. Hatton, Chief Executive; M. Boyd, Head of Service (Finance) and D. Forbes, Senior Manager (Finance Management); Y. Baulk, Head of Service (Physical Environment), D. Hammond, Head of Service (Commercial), R. McGilvery, Senior Manager (Housing Operations), Janeine Barrett, Senior Manager (Homelessness and Community Safety) and G. Mcpherson, Team Manager (Housing Strategy and Community Safety) (Place); C. Amos, Interim Executive Director, R. Arthur, Head of Service (Connected Communities) and A. McClelland, Head of Service (Education) (Communities and Education); C. Cameron, Director (Health and Social Care Partnership), E. Stewart, Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) and P. Doak, Head of Service (Finance & Transformation) (Health and Social Care Partnership); K. Yeomans, Director (Growth and Investment); A. Craig, Head of Service, I. Hardy, Corporate Policy & Performance Officer; M. Sugden, Communications Officer, C. Stewart and A. Little, Committee Services Officers (Democratic Services).

Chair

Joe Cullinane in the Chair.

1. Declarations of Interest

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

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 2 November 2021 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Education Service – National Improvement Framework Annual Report 2020-21

Submitted a report by the Interim Executive Director (Communities and Education) on key progress in pursuance of the National Improvement Framework Priorities in education. The Annual Report was attached at Appendix 1 to the report. Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the potential impact caused by the reduction in Attainment Challenge Funding, over a 4-year period, and measures that would be put in place by officers to mitigate this.

The Cabinet agreed (a) the content of the report; and (b) to approve the publication of the report as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

4. Remembering Together – Scotland’s Covid Community Memorial Programme

Submitted a report by the Interim Executive Director (Communities and Education) on the North Ayrshire response to the proposed national programme of reflection and commemoration marking the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the Remembering Together, Scotland’s Covid Community Memorial Programme; (b) authorise officers to continue to support this approach; and (c) receive a further update on progress relating to the Remembering Together Programme in North Ayrshire at a future meeting.

5. Annual Performance Report 2020-21

Submitted a report by the Head of Service (Democratic Services) on the Annual Public Performance Report 2020-21. The Annual report was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the Annual Public Performance Report 2020-21 as set out at Appendix 1 to the report; (b) note the status of the Council’s performance indicators and actions at Appendices 2 and 3 to the report; and (c) refer this report to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee for further consideration.

6. Revenue Budget 2021/22: Financial Performance to 30 September 2021

Submitted a report by the Head of Service (Finance) on the financial performance for the Council at 30 September 2021. Detailed explanations of the significant variances in service expenditure compared to the approved budgets, together with information on funding to be carried forward to support expenditure during 2021/22 were provided in Appendices 1-5 of the report. Information in respect of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) was set out in Appendices 6 and 7. Information on the HSCP financial performance report as at the end of September 2021 was set out in Appendix 8 to the report. Information on the North Ayrshire Council Recovery and Renewal Fund Investments was set out in Appendix 9 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to note (i) the information and financial projections outlined in the report and its associated appendices, (ii) the current financial projection for the Health and Social Care Partnership at section 2.6 of the report, (iii) the current projected deficit position of KA Leisure; and (b) to approve the virements detailed in Appendix 7 to the report.

7. Capital Programme Performance to 31 March 2022

Submitted a report by the Head of Service (Finance) on progress in delivering the Capital Investment Programme for 2021/22. Information on the progress of General Services and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) projects was set out at Appendices 1 and 2, respectively, to the report.

In relation to a question by Councillor Bell concerning Paragraph 2.11(a) Alterations to the Phasing of Projects and particularly the reference to "Detection Equipment" in the table in the report, the Head of Service (Physical Environment) confirmed that she would respond to Councillor Bell on his query.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the revisions to budgets outlined in the report; (b) note the General Services and HRA revised budgets at 30 September 2021; and (b) note the forecast expenditure to 31 March 2022.

8. Treasury Management and Investment Mid-Year Report

Submitted a report by the Head of Service (Finance) providing Cabinet with a Treasury Management Update for the period 1 April to 30 September 2021. The Mid-Year report was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) endorse the contents of the Treasury Management and Investment Mid-Year Report for 2021/22 as set out at Appendix 1 to the report; and (b) note the Prudential and Treasury Indicators contained therein.

9. Procurement Annual Activity Report (20-21)

Submitted a report by the Head of Service (Finance) providing an update on Procurement activity for the period 2020/21.

The Cabinet agreed to note the contents of the report.

10. Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report

Submitted a report by the Director (HSCP) providing the report of the Chief Social Work Officer to Cabinet as required by the Scottish Government's Guidance. The Annual Report was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the test of change pilot and more appropriate pathways of support for those impacted by substance use.

The Cabinet agreed to note and endorse the Annual Report as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

11. North Ayrshire Tenants Domestic Abuse Policy – All Tenures

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the implementation of the 'North Ayrshire Domestic Abuse Policy – All Tenures'. The Policy was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the implementation of the 'North Ayrshire Domestic Abuse Policy – All Tenures' as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report; and (b) illustrate their support of the Policy (which was the final commitment detailed within the 'Make a Stand Pledge' still to be implemented by the Council) by participating in an online signing of the Pledge.

12. Coronavirus (Covid-19) Tenant Grant Fund

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the Scottish Government's Tenants Grant Fund and providing information on how the grant will be allocated in North Ayrshire.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Tenant Grand Fund award of £0.298m to North Ayrshire Council for distribution; (b) approve the proposed eligibility criteria for use in North Ayrshire; (c) approve the proposed process for administration; and (d) approve that the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Tenant Grant Fund be open for application in North Ayrshire from Tuesday 7 December 2021.

13. Local Housing Strategy 2018-2022: Progress Update

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on progress of the Local Housing Strategy 2018-2022 (LHS18) and seeking approval for an update to be submitted to the Scottish Government. The Action Plan progress as at November 2021 was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the shared ownership model.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the contents of the report and progress against the LHS Action Plan to November 2021; and (b) approve its submission to the Scottish Government.

14. Streetscene Volunteering Strategy (2022-2026) and North Ayrshire's 'Adopt a Spot' initiative

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the proposed Streetscene Volunteering Strategy (2022-2026) and North Ayrshire's Adopt a Spot initiative. The Streetscene Volunteering Strategy 2022-2026 and supporting action plan and the new initiative 'Adopt a Spot', were set out at Appendices 1 and 2, respectively, to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the Streetscene Volunteering Strategy (2022-2026) and North Ayrshire's Adopt a Spot initiative, as detailed at Appendices 1 and 2 to the report.

15. Water Safety Policy

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on an updated Water Safety Policy. The revised Water Safety Policy which outlined the legal responsibilities and duty of care placed upon the Council in relation to open water, and details of the locations of waterways in Council ownership were set out at Appendices 1 and 2, respectively, to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the updated Water Safety Policy as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

16. Digital Processing Manufacturing Centre, i3 Irvine

Submitted a report by the Director (Growth & Investment) on Phase 1 proposals for the Digital Processing Manufacturing Centre (DPMC) at i3, Irvine.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to what would happen at the end of the lease period (Phase 1 of the project).

The Cabinet agreed to (a) proceed with the proposals for Phase 1 of the Digital Processing Manufacturing Centre project; (b) the signing of a Collaboration Agreement for Phase 1, between North Ayrshire Council, University of Strathclyde and the Centre for Process Innovation; (c) contribute £1M to Phase 1 of the project in the form of a grant to the University of Strathclyde, subject to appropriate conditions; and (d) note that the Council would receive a grant of up to £450,000 from Scottish Enterprise that will in turn be passed on to the University of Strathclyde for the fit out of the Phase 1 premises.

The meeting ended at 4.25 p.m.