

CABINET

Minutes of a hybrid webcast meeting on 31 October 2023 at 10.00 a.m.

Present

in County Councillors Martin Dowey (Chair), Alec Clark, Brian Connolly, Ian Davis,
Hall: Lee Lyons, Martin Kilbride, Bob Pollock and Bob Shields.

Present

Remotely: Councillor Stephen Ferry.

Attending

in County

Hall: M. Newall, Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development; J. Bradley, Director of Strategic Change and Communities; L. McRoberts, Director of Education; C. Caves, Head of Legal and Regulatory Services; T. Baulk, Head of Finance, ICT and Procurement; C. Cox, Assistant Director – Planning and Development; K. Dalrymple, Assistant Director – Housing and Operations; G. Hunter, Assistant Director – Communities; D. Alexander, Service Lead – Procurement; F. Ross, Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services; T. Burns, Service Lead – Asset Management and Community Asset Transfer; C. Carroll, Co-ordinator (Housing Policy and Strategy); A. Gibson, Committee Services Officer; and E. Moore, Committee Services Assistant.

Opening Remarks.

The Chair took the sederunt, confirmed to Members the procedures to conduct this meeting and advised that the meeting was being broadcast live. It was noted that Members had been advised that item 8(a) entitled “Thriving Communities” had been withdrawn from the agenda.

1. Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest by Members of the Cabinet in terms of Council Standing Order No. 17 and the Councillors’ Code of Conduct.

2. Minutes of previous meeting.

The minutes of 26 September 2023 were [submitted](#) and approved.

3. **Decision Log.**

The Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note there were no overdue actions.
- (2) to approve the actions listed with a revised due date; and
- (3) to note the recently completed actions.

Buildings, Housing and Environment.

4. **Proposed Disposal of Council and Common Good Property: 'MVF Watchful', South Harbour, Ayr.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 18 October 2023 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development seeking

- (1) approval for the proposed disposal of the following Common Good asset, subject to consultation undertaken under Section 104 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015: MVF Watchful (also known as 'Watchful', 'The Watchful'), a former fishing vessel located in Ayr South Harbour; and
- (2) its removal from the site and scrapped (along with attendant concrete support stanchions).

Following questions from Members and having noted that there would be a consultation period of eight weeks with a further report being presented to Cabinet in early 2024; and that the safety of the vessel would again be immediately inspected by officers, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (a) to grant approval to declare MVF Watchful surplus to Council requirements in accordance with the Council's policy for the Disposal and Acquisition of Council Land and Property;
- (b) to approve the proposal to remove and scrap MVF Watchful and its supporting structure, conditional upon the undertaking of a consultation under the terms of Section 104 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015; and
- (c) to request that a subsequent report be placed before Cabinet on the responses to the consultation, as detailed in the report, in order that the Council may pay due regard to any responses received before deciding whether to proceed with the above proposals.

5. Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) – 2024/25 to 2028/29.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 18 October 2023 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development seeking approval of the draft Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) for submission to the Scottish Government.

There was discussion regarding the need for this to be South Ayrshire wide and not just housing being provided for Ayr; the needs of rural communities; and available subsidies.

Having noted that the Co-ordinator (Housing Policy and Strategy) would provide Members with a Note on the percentage of homeless presentations from outwith the South Ayrshire Council area, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to approve the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, with associated tables for onward submission to the Scottish Government; and
- (2) to delegate authority to the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development to amend and finalise this document based on feedback received from the Scottish Government.

Economic Development.

6. Strategic Approach to Inward Investment.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 18 October 2023 by the Director of Strategic Change and Communities seeking support for a strategic approach to inward investment.

The Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to approve the proposal, as set out in paragraph 4.1 of the report and commission a refresh of the Council's Strategic Economic Plan with a clear focus on sector development and Inward Investment;
- (2) to endorse the proposed approach to Inward Investment and request an Inward Investment/Sectoral Development Strategy, including associated operational structure for consideration in April 2024; and
- (3) to note and approve the role of the Economy and Regeneration Team in facilitating inward investment activities.

Corporate and Strategic.

7. Approval under Delegated Authority – Former Ayr Station Hotel.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 18 October 2023 by the Head of Legal and Regulatory Services advising of matters determined under delegated authority on the grounds of urgency.

The Cabinet

Decided: to acknowledge the matters determined under delegated authority on the grounds of urgency.

Finance, Human Resources and ICT and Economic Development .

8. Annual Procurement Report 2023.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 31 October 2023 by the Head of Finance, ICT and Procurement seeking approval for the publication of the Council's Annual Procurement Report 2023 which detailed the Council's procurement activity between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023.

Following discussion regarding the use of local contractors, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to approve the Annual Procurement Report 2023, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report; and
- (2) to request that officers forward this report to the Scottish Government prior to publication on the Council's website.

Buildings, Housing and Environment and Finance, Human Resources and ICT.

9. Neighbourhood Services Structure Changes.

There was submitted a report (Members only) of 25 October 2023 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development seeking approval for the new Neighbourhood Services Structure in line with the Council's approved budget for 2023/24.

Following discussion on the benefits of the proposed structure changes, the Cabinet

Decided: to approve the Neighbourhood Services employee structure as set out in the Addendum (confidential) to this report and present a Briefing Note providing further detail of the activities of the officers within this structure to Members.

10. **Consideration of Disclosure of the Above Confidential Report.**

Decided: to authorise under Standing Order 32.4 disclosure of the report and related addendum once personal and financial information had been redacted in accordance with GDPR requirements.

- Neighbourhood Services Structure Changes.

The meeting ended at 11.08 a.m.