

CABINET

Minutes of a hybrid webcast meeting on 18 June 2024 at 10.00 a.m.

Present
in County

Hall: Councillors Martin Dowey (Chair), Alec Clark, Brian Connolly, Ian Davis, Stephen Ferry, Martin Kilbride and Bob Shields.

Present

Remotely: Councillor Lee Lyons.

Apology: Councillor Bob Pollock.

Attending
in County

Hall: M. Newall, Chief Executive; L. McRoberts, Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education; K. Braidwood, Director of Housing, Operations and Development; J. Bradley, Director of Communities and Transformation; T. Baulk, Chief Financial Officer; C. Cox, Assistant Director – Planning, Development and Regulation; G. Hunter, Assistant Director – Communities; L. Reid, Assistant Director – Transformation; K. Dalrymple, Assistant Director – Housing and Operations; W. Wesson, Chief HR Officer; K. Briggs, Service Lead – Legal and Licensing; J. Corrie, Head of Ayrshire Roads Alliance; N. Gemmell, Service Lead – Revenues and Benefits; P. Bradley, Service Lead – Professional Design Services; S. McCardie, Co-ordinator – Performance and Community Planning; A. Gibson, Committee Services Officer; and E. Moore, Committee Services Assistant.

Also

Attending
In County

Hall: G. Laird and H. McGuire (in attendance for items 4 and 5).

Apologies: N. Fullard, I. Gall and D. Gemmell.

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.

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 21 May 2024 ([issued](#)) 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 ([issued](#)). It was further noted that, in relation to two entries and having heard various Members of the Cabinet in this regard, that the relevant officers would respond to them directly, following the meeting; and
- (3) to note the recently completed actions ([issued](#)).

Education.

4. **Inspection of Invergarven School: Education Scotland Report.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 10 June 2024 by Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education to inform the Cabinet of the outcome of the Education Scotland Inspection of Invergarven School.

Having considered the contents of the report by Education Scotland, as contained in Appendix 1 of the report and having heard Julie McManus, Headteacher (in attendance for this item only) the Cabinet

Decided: to agree that the main points for action would be addressed by the Headteacher and Quality Improvement Manager.

5. **Inspection of Kingcase Primary School and Early Years Centre: Education Scotland Report.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 10 June 2024 by Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education to inform the Cabinet of the outcome of the Education Scotland Inspection of Kingcase Primary School and Early Years Centre.

Having considered the contents of the report by Education Scotland, as contained in Appendix 1 of the report and having heard Ryan Delaney, Headteacher (in attendance for this item only) the Cabinet

Decided: to agree that the main points for action would be addressed by the Headteacher and Quality Improvement Manager.

The Educational representatives left the meeting at this point.

Economic Development.

6. Ayrshire Roads Alliance Service Plan 2024/25 and Performance Report 2023/24.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 10 June 2024 by the Director of Housing, Operations and Development presenting the Ayrshire Roads Alliance Service Plan for 2024/25 and the Performance Report for 2023/24.

Having heard various Members of the Cabinet, it was agreed that the Head of the Ayrshire Roads Alliance would provide these Members with information relating to the Strategic Transport Projects Review and the number of parking appeals being accepted.

The Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to approve the Ayrshire Roads Alliance Service Plan for 2024/25 (Appendix 1);
- (2) to note that regular progress updates were provided to the Ayrshire Shared Services Joint Committee;
- (3) to note the performance scorecard for 2023/24 (Appendix 2) presented to the Service and Partnerships Performance Panel on 11 June 2024; and
- (4) to otherwise note the content of the report.

7. Maybole and Girvan Regeneration Projects.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 10 June 2024 by the Director of Communities and Transformation providing an update on the progress of the Maybole Regeneration Project (MRP) and of the Girvan Regeneration Project.

Following discussion regarding consultation and property owners' contributions, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note the progress of the Maybole Active Travel Phase 1 (MAT1) project and to approve transfer of the project management and delivery of the two-way MAT1 option to Ayrshire Roads Alliance;
- (2) to approve closure of the Small Grants Scheme funds;
- (3) to approve funding for the appointment of an external project manager to cover maternity leave period and to extend the Maybole Regeneration Project through to the end of December 2025;
- (4) to note the progress of the Girvan Regeneration Heritage and Place Project and approves funding required to deliver Development Stage activities and enable a Delivery Stage application; and

- (5) to otherwise note the contents of the report and support the approaches and activities set out in the report.

Economic Development/Tourism, Culture and Rural Affairs.

8. Girvan Conservation Area Appraisal.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 12 June 2024 by the Director of Housing, Operations and Development detailing the outcomes of public consultation on the Girvan Conservation Area Appraisal including proposed changes to the Girvan Conservation Area boundary and seeking approval to formally adopt the Girvan Conservation Area Appraisal, including the proposed amendments to the conservation area boundaries.

The Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to agree to adopt the Girvan Conservation Area Appraisal, including the proposed amendments to the conservation area boundaries, as included in Appendix 2 and 3 of the report;
- (2) to note the outcomes of the consultation on the draft Girvan Conservation Area Appraisal and to agree the Council responses, as set out in Appendix 3 and 4 of the report;
- (3) to agree to the preparation of a draft Conservation Area Management Plan to support the implementation of priorities, as outlined in the Appraisal and the Girvan's Story funding application.

Buildings, Housing and Environment.

9. Strategic Housing Investment Plan: Interim Update.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 10 June 2024 by the Director of Housing, Operations and Development providing an update on progress against the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2024/25 – 2028/29 and information relating to Resource Planning Assumption changes to the Affordable Housing Supply Programme.

Having heard various Members of the Cabinet in relation to the requirement for rural housing needs to be considered in future update reports, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to acknowledge the reduction in Scottish Government grant funding in relation to the Affordable Housing Supply Programme;
- (2) to note progress against targets set within the SHIP and to approve the revised programme for 2024/25, as detailed in section 4 of the report; and
- (3) to note that a full refresh of the SHIP would be submitted to Cabinet in the Autumn.

Buildings, Housing and Environment/Finance, HR and ICT.**10. Housing Capital Programme 2023/24 - Monitoring Report as at 31 March 2024.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 11 June 2024 by the Director of Housing, Operations and Development providing on the actual capital expenditure and income, together with progress made on the Housing Capital Programme projects as at 31 March 2024 (Period 12) and seeking agreement to the changes to budgets in 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26.

The Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note the progress made on the delivery of the Housing Capital Programme to 31 March 2024, resulting in spend of £45,685,148 or 98.14%, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (2) to approve the adjustments, as contained in Appendix 2 of the report; and
- (3) to approve the revised budget for 2023/24 at £45,685,148, 2024/25 at £72,959,952 and 2025/26 at £25,406,740, as highlighted in Appendix 2 of the report.

Corporate and Strategic.**11. Council Plan Actions: 2024/25.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 10 June 2024 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education seeking approval of the Council Plan Actions (2024/2025) for year two of the Council Plan 2023-2028.

Having noted how footfall in the various towns in South Ayrshire was monitored, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to approve the Council Plan actions for 2024/2025, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (2) to note that the actions for the second year of the Council Plan would be reported to Service and Partnerships Performance Panel during 2024/2025, as agreed within the Performance Management Framework; and
- (3) to note that performance against the Council Plan would also be the subject of an annual report to Council.

Corporate and Strategic/Education.

12. Child Poverty Strategy 2024-2029.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 10 June 2024 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education seeking endorsement of the new South Ayrshire Child Poverty Strategy 2024-29, as agreed by the Community Planning Board in April of this year.

The Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to endorse the new Child Poverty Strategy, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report; and
- (2) to note the new Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report.

Finance, HR and ICT.

13. Budget Management – Revenue Budgetary Control 2023/24 – Out-turn Statement at 31 March 2024.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 13 June 2024 by the Chief Financial Officer providing a financial overview of the General Services revenue account, Housing Revenue Account and Common Good Accounts for 2023/24 as at 31 March 2024.

Having discussed various concerns arising from the report and that the portfolio holder for Finance, HR and ICT would meet with the relevant officer to discuss the stated overspend, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note the out-turn position for each Directorate/ service for 2023/24, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (2) to approve the revisions to previous earmarking and new earmarking of funds, to be carried forward for utilisation in 2024/25, as outlined in Appendix 2 and included in table 1 at paragraph 4.1.1 of the report;
- (3) to note the £5.289m HSCP 2023/24 in-year underspend and accumulated reserves position of £16.465m available to the Partnership for 2024/25, as outlined in paragraphs 4.1.5 to 4.1.7 of the report;
- (4) to note the overall General Services in-year underspend of £1.026m. as detailed at 4.1.1 of the report (before earmarking) and the accumulated uncommitted reserves position of £4.444m., as outlined in paragraph 4.1.9 of the report;
- (5) to note the Common Good Fund's financial position, as outlined in paragraph 4.3 of the report; and

- (6) to request that, given the General Fund uncommitted reserve balance had fallen below the desired 2% of expenditure, the Chief Financial Officer bring forward a report to Cabinet in August 2024 that considered whether funds held in Committed Reserves could be released to augment the Uncommitted Reserves position.

14. Write-offs: Council Tax, Non-Domestic Rates, Customer Invoicing and Housing Benefit Overpayments.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 10 June 2024 by the Chief Financial Officer seeking approval to write-off Council Tax, Non-Domestic Rates, Housing Benefit Overpayments and Customer Invoicing Accounts in accordance with Council policy.

Having heard a Member of the Cabinet and having noted that in future, more context would be provided in these reports, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to approve the write-off of Council Tax amounting to £62,550.93;
- (2) to approve the write-off of Non-Domestic Rates amounting to £334,223.08;
- (3) to note the write-off of Housing Benefit Overpayments amounting to £446,934.00 previously approved by the Chief Financial Officer in accordance with Section 7 (FIP10) of the Council's Scheme of Delegation; and
- (4) to note the write-off of Customer Invoicing amounting to £81,280.74 previously approved by the Chief Financial Officer in accordance with Section 7 (FIP10) of the Council's Scheme of Delegation.

Adjournment.

The time being 11.15 am, the Cabinet agreed to adjourn for five minutes. The Cabinet reconvened at 11.20 a.m.

15. Carers Policy.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 11 June 2024 by the Chief Executive seeking approval for the implementation of a new Carers Leave policy to support employees who had caring responsibilities.

The Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note the work that has been undertaken in the development of the policy;
- (2) to approve the implementation of the new policy; and
- (3) to request officers to apply to upgrade the Council's Carer Positive accreditation.

16. General Services Capital Programme 2023/24 - Monitoring Report as at 31 March 2024.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 13 June 2024 by the Director of Housing, Operations and Development providing an update on the actual capital expenditure and income, together with progress made on the General Services Capital Programme projects as at 31 March 2024 (Period 12) and seeking agreement to the changes to budgets in 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26.

Having heard Cabinet Members and having noted that the Service Lead – Professional Design Services would respond to a Member regarding a query relating to the Community Bus Fund, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note the progress made on the delivery of the General Services Capital Programme to 31 March, resulting in spend of £53,676,785 or 87.04%, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (2) to approve the adjustments, as contained in Appendix 2 of the report; and
- (3) to approve the revised budget for 2023/24 at £53,676,785, 2024/25 at £102,569,487 and 2025/26 at £94,223,551, as highlighted in Appendix 2 of the report.

17. Exclusion of press and public.

The Cabinet resolved, in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, that the press and public be excluded during consideration of the remaining item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information in terms of paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

Economic Development/Finance, HR and ICT.

18. Regeneration Build Project B.

There was submitted a joint report (Members only) of 12 June 2024 by the Director of Housing, Operations and Development and Director of Communities and Transformation providing an update on the Regeneration Build Project B and seeking approval for next steps.

The Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note the outcome of the refreshed Economic Impact Assessment for Project B noted at paragraph 3.5 of the report and; that further financial diligence would be undertaken on Company B prior to legal commitment;
- (2) to note that the Council were currently in negotiations to enter into a long-term lease of land for Facility B at Prestwick Aerospace Park from Scottish Enterprise and that officers would report back to Cabinet in due course on the outcome of these negotiations;

- (3) to approve the proposal to proceed with procurement of a design team and contractor for delivery of Project B, through an appropriate framework and in compliance with the Council's Standing Orders relating to Contracts; and
- (4) to request that the Director of Housing, Operations and Development submitted a further report to Cabinet seeking approval in advance of financial close for the project.

19. Consideration of Disclosure of the above confidential report.

Decided: to agree that under Standing Order 32.4, the undernoted report remain exempt as the terms of the contract were still being negotiated.

- Regeneration Build Project B.

The meeting ended at 11.45.a.m.