

CABINET

Minutes of a hybrid webcast meeting on 27 August 2024 at 10.00 a.m.

Present
in County

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

Apology: Councillor Hugh Hunter.

Attending
in County

Hall: M. Newall, Chief Executive; K. Braidwood, Director of Housing, Operations and Development; J. Bradley, Director of Communities and Transformation; C. Caves, Chief Governance Officer; T. Baulk, Chief Financial Officer; G. Hunter, Assistant Director – Communities; L. Reid, Assistant Director – Transformation; K. Dalrymple, Assistant Director – Housing and Operations; K. Anderson, Assistant Director – Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance; J. Corrie, Head of Ayrshire Roads Alliance; F. Ross, Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services; M. Scott, Service Lead – Economy and Regeneration; C. Carroll, Co-ordinator (Housing Policy and Strategy); R. Kingisepp, Capital Planning Co-ordinator; A. Gibson, Committee Services Officer; and E. Moore, Committee Services Assistant.

Attending

Remotely: L. McRoberts, Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education.

Opening Remarks.

The Chair

- (1) took the sederunt, confirmed to Members the procedures to conduct this meeting and advised that the meeting was being broadcast live;
- (2) welcomed Councillors Grant and Hunter, who recently been appointed to the Cabinet and thanked Councillors Ferry and Lyons for their contribution to the Cabinet in the past; and
- (3) thanked Andrew Gibson for his role as Clerk to the Cabinet, who would soon be leaving the employment of the Council.

Variation on Order of Business.

In terms of Council Standing Order No. 13.3, the Cabinet agreed to vary the order of business as hereinafter minuted.

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 18 June 2024 ([issued](#)) were submitted and approved.

3. **Decision Log.**

Following questions from various Members of the Cabinet regarding entries within the Decision Log and having noted that the appropriate officer would provide Members with an update relating to the entry on the Sale of the Former St. Cuthberts Primary School, Maybole, following the meeting, the Cabinet

Decided:

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

Economic Development.

4. **South Ayrshire Council Parking Strategy 2020 - 2024 – Ayr Parking Consultation.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 15 August 2024 by Director of Housing, Operations and Development presenting the Outcome Report for the 2023 Ayr Parking Consultation which set out the feedback received in relation to proposals for residents and designated parking, along with the resultant officer recommendations; and advising that the report also contained observations relating to off-street car parks and the two hours free parking initiative.

Having heard the Head of the Ayrshire Roads Alliance and following discussion, the Cabinet

Decided: to agree that the report be deferred to allow a wider car parking review to be undertaken by officers and officers to report back on the results with recommendations to Cabinet in due course.

5. Accessible Ayr Phasing.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 26 August 2024 by Director of Communities and Transformation providing an update on the progress of the Accessible Ayr project and seeking approval for officers to undertake Stage 4 technical design work on a phased basis in line with current funding scenarios.

Having heard Members speak in support of the proposals, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note that funding of £778,780 had been granted by Sustrans to South Ayrshire Council to conclude Stage 4 technical design work for infrastructure and regeneration works;
- (2) to agree that the funding of £778,780 was transferred to Ayrshire Roads Alliance to continue the development of the design work for the area to the South of the river Ayr, identified in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (3) to note that Ayrshire Roads Alliance would report back to the Cabinet with an update on completion of the design work and advising on the steps to complete the project; and
- (4) to note that officers would report to the Cabinet on proposed designs for the area north of the River Ayr, as identified in Appendix 2 of the report, where further funding becomes available.

Buildings, Housing and Environment.

6. Open Space Strategy 2024 – 2030.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 21 August 2024 by Director of Housing, Operations and Development seeking approval of the finalised Open Space Strategy for 2024-2030.

Having heard Members of the Cabinet speak in support of the Strategy; how it related to Troon; Scottish Governments funding of playparks; relationships with the community and community groups in this regard; and that work would be undertaken with the Council's Communications Team to promote the Strategy, the Cabinet

Decided: to approve the Open Space Strategy 2024-30 for South Ayrshire Council with the corrections to the Strategy advised by officers.

Buildings, Housing and Environment/ Tourism, Culture and Rural Affairs.

7. Short Term Let Licensing Policy Amendment.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 15 August 2024 by Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education seeking approval to amend the Short Term Let Licensing Policy previously agreed by Members on 30 August 2022.

Having heard Members speak in support of the report, the Cabinet

Decided: to approve the amendments to sections 5.1 and 7.1 of the Policy, as outlined in Appendix 1 of the report.

Buildings, Housing and Environment/ Economic Development.

8. Ayrshire Growth Deal Update.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 20 August 2024 by the Director of Housing, Operations and Development providing an update on the Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) Aerospace and Space programme and the revised management arrangements for the projects.

Having heard a Member of the Panel speak in relation to the Mangata Project and having heard the Assistant Director – Transformation in response, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note the current status of projects within the Ayrshire Growth Deal Aerospace and Space programme, as outlined in the monthly RAG report at Appendix 1;
- (2) to note the revised management and delivery arrangements for the Ayrshire Growth Deal and Regeneration Build programme, in line with recent changes to Chief Officer remits;
- (3) to agree updates to the SAC AGD Steering Group Terms of Reference, as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report;
- (4) to note the work undertaken by officers to review the Aerospace and Space programme and the ongoing communication with Scottish and UK Governments; and
- (5) to agree that the AGD Senior Responsible Officer continued discussions with Scottish and UK Governments, with activity limited so as to reduce financial risk to the Council and to bring back proposals to Cabinet as soon as practicable.

Finance, HR and ICT.**9. Budget Management – Revenue Budgetary Control 2024/25 – Position at 30 June 2024.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 20 August 2024 by the Chief Financial Officer presenting a financial overview of the General Services revenue account, Housing Revenue Account and Common Good Accounts for 2024/25, as at 30 June 2024.

Following questions from Members of the Cabinet, including the overspend reported and the concerns arising therefrom, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note the revised Directorate budgets following the budget movements, outlined in paragraph 3.3 of the report;
- (2) to approve the budget transfers, as outlined in the Directorate financial performance reports at Appendix 1 and summarised in paragraph 4.1.6 of the report;
- (3) to approve the requested earmarking of resources to be carried forward to 2025/26, as summarised in 4.1.7 of the report;
- (4) to note the projected in year over-spend of £2.319m. after earmarking; and
- (5) to require Directors/ Assistant Directors and Heads of Service to take steps to ensure that Directorate/ Services were not overspent against budget by 31 March 2025, as per section 5.3 of the Financial Regulations.

10. General Services Capital Programme 2024/25: Monitoring Report as at 30 June 2024.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 15 August 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 30 June 2024 (Period 3) and requesting changes to budgets in 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27.

Following discussion on specific items and that it being reported that there had only been 6.46% expenditure of the Programme to date, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note the progress made on the delivery of the General Services Capital Programme to 30 June, resulting in spend of £7,381,113 or 6.46%, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (2) to approve the adjustments contained in Appendix 2 of the report; and
- (3) to approve the revised budget for 2024/25 at £68,619,832, 2025/26 at £105,297,821 and 2026/27 at £93,976,626, as highlighted in Appendix 2 of the report.

11. **Review of General Services Reserves.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 15 August 2024 by the Chief Financial Officer in relation to a review of the various committed balances currently held by the Council in General Services reserves; and recommending amounts for release back to uncommitted reserves.

Following discussion and having noted that the Chief Governance Officer would provide an update on the financial position relating to the Station Hotel, Ayr, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note the review of the General Services committed reserves position and to approve the recommended release of £0.439m. of committed funds to uncommitted reserves; and
- (2) to note the receipt of £0.448m. of funding in relation to the 2023-24 pay award that has been added to uncommitted reserves; and
- (3) to note a revised total uncommitted reserve of £5.331m., which equated to 2.11% of current planned net expenditure.

Finance, HR and ICT/ Buildings, Housing and Environment.

12. **Housing Capital Programme 2024/25: Monitoring Report as at 30 June 2024.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 15 August 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 Housing Capital Programme projects as at 30 June 2024 (Period 3); requesting changes to budgets in 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27 (Period 12); and seeking agreement to the changes to budgets in 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26.

Following discussion relating to cavity wall insulation and the cost to bring derelict stock back into use, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note the progress made on the delivery of the Housing Capital Programme to 30 June 2024, resulting in spend of £9,747,508 or 10.44%, 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 2024/25 at £84,270,647, 2025/26 at £52,085,358 and 2026/27 at £26,740,621 as highlighted in Appendix 2 of the report.

13. 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 paragraphs 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

Economic Development.

14. Aerospace and Space Technology Application Centre (ASTAC) Project.

There was submitted a report (Members only) of 15 August 2024 by the Director of Communities and Transformation providing an update on progress of the ASTAC project and seeking agreement on the next steps.

Following discussion, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to acknowledge progress towards developing the business case for the ASTAC Project and securing partner support;
- (2) to approve the revised and extended timeline of ASTAC Project;
- (3) to note a target date for a draft ASTAC OBC of December 2024;
- (4) to approve the appointment of an independent property surveyor to secure valuation advice for the Council's Estates team to inform any future lease or property arrangement for the project and that this work would provide valuation advice and information on market values and was anticipated to be circa £10,000 funded from AGD ASTAC budget;
- (5) to agree to the development of a formal Project Plan setting out the Change Management process for the project to be agreed with the AGD PMO that would help to facilitate the Outline Business Case (OBC) approval and that the Project Plan would include the further development of the risk register with a view to transferring commercial, financial and operation risks to partners and the de-risking of the project in terms of any financial or commercial risks to the Council;
- (6) to note that the realigning the scope of the project around skills and training at Prestwick Airport meant the project still included significant delivery risks and that the partnership model (project scope and 2 operating agreement) and all partner agreements (investment/ lease/ guarantees/ heads of terms/ etc) would all be set out in the OBC for formal agreement by the Council and thereafter Scottish/ UK Governments; and
- (7) to note the total Council spend to date at risk on the ASTAC project was £883,938.

15. **Consideration of Disclosure of the above confidential report.**

The Cabinet

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

- Aerospace and Space Technology Application Centre (ASTAC) Project.

The meeting ended at 11.45 a.m.

Draft