

CABINET

Minutes of a hybrid webcast meeting on 26 November 2024 at 10.00 a.m.

Present in County

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

Also Present in County

Hall: Councillor Julie Dettbarn (for item 2 only).

Attending in County

Hall: M. Newall, Chief Executive; L. McRoberts, Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education; J. Bradley, Director of Communities and Transformation; T. Eltringham, Director of Health and Social Care; T. Baulk, Chief Financial Officer; C. Caves, Chief Governance Officer; K. Anderson, Assistant Director – Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance; K. Dalrymple, Assistant Director – Housing and Operations; G. Hunter, Assistant Director – Communities; S. Mulholland, Assistant Director – Education; G. Hoey, Chief Social Work Officer; D. Alexander, Service Lead – Procurement; P. Bradley, Service Lead – Professional Design Services; C. Carroll, Service Lead - Housing Strategy and Regeneration; J. Tait, Service Lead – Thriving Communities; L. Jarvie, Co-ordinator – Sustainability and Fleet; R. Kingisepp, Co-ordinator – Capital Planning; K. Hancox, Committee Services Officer; and E. Moore, Committee Services Assistant.

Also Attending In County

Hall: L. Donnelly; N. Fullard; E. Harrigan; G. Hartley; A. Ingram; and G. Laird.

Attending
Remotely: A. Gupta, COSLA.

Apologies: D. Gemmell, I. Gall and H. McGuire.

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; and
- (2) welcomed Anil Gupta from COSLA who attended remotely to observe.

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.

Corporate and Strategic

2. Call-in for the Community Councils – Amendments to the Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils.

Having heard from the Chair of the Audit and Governance Panel and the Service Lead – Thriving Communities, the Cabinet

Decided: to agree the recommendations in the decision of the Audit and Governance Panel on 6 November 2024.

3. Minutes of previous meeting.

The minutes of 29 October 2024 ([issued](#)) were submitted and approved.

4. Decision Log.

The Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note that the overdue action would be presented to Cabinet in 2025;
- (2) to approve the actions listed with revised due dates; and
- (3) to note the recently completed actions.

Education

5. Update on Pupil Equity Fund and Scottish Attainment Challenge.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 18 November 2024 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education requesting that Cabinet confirm that it was content with the current approach to the use of Pupil Equity Fund and Attainment Scotland Funding and to inform Cabinet of the progress made by schools during 2023-24 in improving equity in educational outcomes.

Following discussion on improved attendance, funding for secondary schools in deprived areas and the process for reaching individual attainment gaps, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to confirm the current approach taken to the use of Pupil Equity Fund;
- (2) to confirm the current approach taken in the use of Strategic Equity Funding; and
- (3) to note the progress made in achieving equity in educational outcomes during session 2023-24 in relation to South Ayrshire's stretch aims and plans for the future.

The Education representatives left the meeting at this point.

Buildings, Housing and Environment.

6. South Ayrshire Council Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Annual Report 2023-24.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 20 November 2024 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education presenting for approval the Council's statutorily required Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Annual Reporting for 2023-2024.

Following comments on energy efficient buildings and vehicles; and the pilot for the use of hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO), the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to approve the annual report for national submission; and
- (2) to recognise as highlighted in the analysis of the report both the positive results and challenges the Council faces to increase the pace of change to fulfil the Council's duties and targets.

7. Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) – 2025/26 to 2029/30.

There was submitted a joint report ([issued](#)) of 18 November 2024 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education and Director of Housing, Operations and Development seeking Cabinet approval for the content of the draft Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) for submission to the Scottish Government.

Following discussion on the importance of housing in rural areas, the Cabinet

Decided:

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

Finance, HR and ICT/Economic Development.

8. Annual Procurement Report 2024.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 18 November 2024 by the Chief Financial Officer seeking approval for the publication of the Council's Annual Procurement Report 2024 which detailed the Council's procurement activity between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024.

The Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to approve the Annual Procurement Report 2024 attached as Appendix 1; and

- (2) to request that officers forward the report to the Scottish Government prior to publishing on the Council's website.

Finance, HR and ICT.

9. Budget Management – Revenue Budgetary Control 2024/25.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 18 November 2024 by the Chief Financial Officer presenting Members with a financial overview of the General Services Revenue Account, Housing Revenue Account and Common Good Accounts for 2024/25 as at 30 September 2024.

Following discussion on the possible need for additional funds, the capital reserves contribution to restore fire-damaged properties and the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note the revised Directorate budgets following the budget movements outlined in 3.3 of the report;
- (2) to approve the budget transfers and requested earmarking of resources to be carried forward to 2025/26 summarised in 4.1.6 and 4.1.7 of the report;
- (3) to note the likely financial impact of the transition to IFRS16 in relation to PFI/PPP arrangements from 2024/25 as outlined at 4.1.8 of the report;
- (4) to note the projected in year over-spend of £1.411m after earmarking and inclusion of the impact of the transition to IFRS16; and
- (5) to require Directors/Assistant Directors and Heads of Service to take steps to ensure that Directorates/Services were not overspent against budget by 31 March 2025 as per section 5.3 of the Financial Regulations.

10. General Services Capital Programme 2025/26: Monitoring Report as at 30 September 2024.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 18 November 2024 by the Director of Housing, Operations and Development updating Cabinet on the actual capital expenditure and income, together with progress made on the General Services Capital Programme projects as at 30 September 2024 (Period 6), and to agree the changes to budgets in 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27.

Having heard a Member of the Cabinet highlight their concern regarding the final figures to be confirmed within the budget adjustments, it had been advised that once agreement had been reached the budget would be adjusted with regard to the capital profile.

Following discussion regarding budget allocations, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note the progress made on the delivery of the General Services Capital Programme to 30 September, resulted in spend of £20,506,928 or 29.88%, as detailed in Appendix 1;
- (2) to approve the adjustments contained in Appendix 2; and
- (3) to approve the revised budget for 2024/25 at £61.105m, 2025/26 at £114.935m and 2026/27 at £93.558m as highlighted in Appendix 2.

Finance, HR and ICT/Buildings, Housing and Environment

11. Housing Capital Programme 2024/25: Monitoring Report as at 30 September 2024.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 18 November 2024 by the Director of Housing, Operations and Development updating Cabinet on the actual capital expenditure and income, together with progress made on the Housing Capital Programme projects as at 30 September 2024 (Period 6), and to agree the changes to budgets in 2024/25 and 2025/26.

Following discussion on future-proofing properties, the demolition of Riverside Place and clarification surrounding the terminology of the wording “refurbish” meaning “demolition”, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note the progress made on the delivery of the Housing Capital Programme to 30 September 2024, resulting in spend of £24,045,463 or 28.53% as detailed in Appendix 1;
- (2) to approve the adjustments contained in Appendix 2; and
- (3) to approve the revised budget for 2024/25 at £58,274,895 and 2025/26 at £62,631,200 as highlighted in Appendix 2.

Health and Social Care.

12. Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 18 November 2024 by the Chief Social Work Officer updating the Cabinet on the performance of statutory social work services for 2023-2024.

Adjournment

The time being 11.55 a.m., the Cabinet adjourned to peruse a missing appendix.

Resumption of Meeting

The meeting resumed at 12.15 p.m.

Following discussion, and confirmation that a Members' briefing would be arranged, the Cabinet

Decided: to consider and note the performance of statutory social work services set out in the Social Work report.

The meeting ended at 12.45 p.m.

DRAFT