

CABINET

Minutes of a hybrid webcast meeting on 14 June 2022 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Martin Dowey (Chair), Alec Clark, Brian Connolly, Ian Davis, Stephen Ferry, Martin Kilbride and Lee Lyons.

Apology: Councillor Bob Pollock.

Attending In County Hall: E. Howat, Chief Executive; C. Caves, Head of Legal, HR and Regulatory Services; L. McRoberts, Director of Education; K. Carr, Assistant Director – Place; L. Reid, Assistant Director – Place; K. Dalrymple, Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services; J. McClure, Committee Services Lead Officer; C. Buchanan, Committee Services Officer; and C. McCallum, Committee Services Assistant.

Attending Remotely: D. Gillies, Director – Place; T. Eltringham, Director of Health and Social Care; M. Newall, Assistant Director – People; J. Bradley, Assistant Director – People; T. Leijser, Service Lead – Economy and Regeneration; D. Alexander, Service Lead – Procurement; P. Bradley, Service Lead – Professional Design Services; and R. Kingisepp, Capital Planning Co-ordinator.

1. Opening Remarks.

The Chair took the sederunt, confirmed to Members the procedures to conduct this meeting and advised that part of the meeting was being broadcast live.

2. Declarations of Interest.

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

3. Decision Log.

A question was raised by a Member in relation to the current position with the Station Hotel and the Director – Place advised that a report would be submitted to the Council at its meeting of 29 June 2022; and that a briefing would be arranged to update all Members prior to the next Cabinet meeting on 30 August 2022.

A further question was asked by a Member in relation to Place Plans and the Assistant Director – Place advised that Place Plans were currently being implemented in North Ayr and Girvan and then rolled out throughout South Ayrshire; and outlined the procedure for progressing the Place Plans.

The Chair asked the Director – Place for an update on the position with the new Leisure Centre and he outlined that he would provide a written briefing for Cabinet Members; and the Chair also requested that a report on the new Leisure Centre be submitted to the Cabinet at its meeting on 30 August 2022 for consideration.

Following discussion, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to approve the [overdue actions](#);
- (2) to approve the actions listed with [revised due dates](#); and
- (3) to note the recently [completed actions](#).

Education/Health and Social Care

4. Period Products – (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 7 June 2022 by the Director of Education seeking agreement from the Cabinet to the South Ayrshire Period Products Delivery Statement.

Having thanked the Director of Education for her work on this matter, the Cabinet

Decided: to agree the South Ayrshire Period Product Delivery Statement.

Buildings, Housing and Environment.

5. Ayr and Troon Cemetery Burial Chambers

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 7 June 2022 by the Assistant Director – Place updating Cabinet on the investigation into water ingress to the burial chambers at Ayr cemetery.

Councillor Kilbride, seconded by Councillor Ferry, moved the recommendations in the report with the addition of the establishment of an additional two temporary Liaison Officers, for a three month period at a total cost of £15,000.

A full discussion took place in relation to the bereaved families affected and the support offered to them; the tests carried out by contractors before the ground was brought into use; and the drainage put in place.

Members thanked those Officers involved for the work undertaken and thanked the Leader for meeting with the families affected.

The Cabinet, having noted the outcome of the investigation of water ingress within Ayr Cemetery Burial Chambers,

Decided:

- (1) to approve the proposals outlined in section 4 of the report and the cost and funding source of £1.500m set out in section 6.1 of the report; and
- (2) to approve the establishment of an additional two temporary Liaison Officers, for a three month period at a total cost of £15,000

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

6. Housing Capital Programme 2021/22: Monitoring Report as at 31 March 2022

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 7 June 2022 by the Assistant Director – Place updating the Cabinet on the actual capital expenditure and income, together with progress made on the Housing Capital Programme projects as at 31 March 2022 (Period 12); and seeking approval of the changes to budgets in 2022/23 and 2023/24.

A Cabinet Member requested a breakdown on the cost per unit of the old Mainholm site; and the Service Lead – Professional Design Services advised that she would obtain this information and forward it to Cabinet Members.

The Cabinet, having noted the progress made on the delivery of the Housing Capital Programme to 31 March 2022, resulting in spend of £23,232,748 or 97.21%, as detailed in Appendix 1 attached to the report,

Decided:

- (1) to approve the adjustments contained in Appendix 2 attached to the report; and
- (2) to approve the revised budget for 2022/23 at £69,204,500 and 2023/24 at £40,184,366 as highlighted in Appendix 2.

Corporate and Strategic/ Finance, Human Resources and ICT.

7. The South Ayrshire Way Strategic Change Programme – Preparing for the Future

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 7 June 2022 by the Assistant Director – Place providing an update to the Cabinet on progress delivering the *South Ayrshire Way Strategic Change Programme* including detail on projected benefits for projects.

The Cabinet, having noted the progress made by officers in completing relevant actions and recommendations in the Best Value Audit; and the benefits and productivity gains proposed by current projects on the programme,

Decided: to agree a further update to the Service and Performance Panel in October 2022 in line with agreed reporting arrangements.

Corporate and Strategic/ Economic Development.

8. Scotland Loves Local – Gift Card scheme

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 7 June 2022 by the Assistant Director – Place providing an update on the progress of the 'Scotland Loves Local' Gift Card Scheme; and seeking approval to continue with the programme for another year based on the costs provided in the report.

The Cabinet, having noted the benefits of the 'Scotland Loves Local' Gift Card Scheme for local residents, businesses and the Council,

Decided:

- (1) to approve continuation of the scheme for one year from 31 August 2022 based on costs provided within paragraph 6.1 of the report; and
- (2) to agree any continuation of the scheme past June 2023 be subject to further approvals.

Health and Social Care/ Economic Development/ Finance, Human Resources and ICT.

9. Annex 2 Contract Awards in Q3 and Q4 2021/22

There was submitted a joint [report](#) (issued) of 7 June 2022 by the Director of Health and Social Care and the Director – Place advising the Cabinet, in accordance with Clause C.6 of Annex 2 of Standing Orders Relating to Contracts, of contracts directly awarded under South Ayrshire Council's Annex 2 arrangements during 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022.

The Cabinet, having considered the detail listed at Appendix 1 of the report, of directly awarded contracts to service providers, using the provisions of Annex 2 of Standing Orders relating to Contracts,

Decided: to note the contents of the report.

Health and Social Care/ Buildings, Housing and Environment.

10. Services to Gypsy/Travellers – Site to Support and Accommodate Gypsy/Traveller Encampments

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 7 June 2022 by the Assistant Director – Place providing Cabinet with an update on the consultation and feasibility study undertaken on the preferred location of a potential transit site for Gypsy/Traveller encampments in South Ayrshire.

Councillor Lyons, seconded by Councillor Kilbride, moved an Amendment to the recommendations in the report as follows:-

“that the Cabinet notes the content of the report and the approach from the local landowner referred to in paragraph 4.10 of the report and requests officers to:-

- (1) pause further work on the Cockhill Farm location until the outcome of the Stage 1 bid to the Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Fund is confirmed around September 2022;
- (2) pursue discussions with other landowners about these proposals and consult with the traveller community; and
- (3) report back with an update on these matters to Cabinet in September 2022.”

The Cabinet

Decided: to agree the Amendment to the recommendations in the report, as outlined above.

Finance, Human Resources and ICT.

11. General Services Capital Programme 2021/22: Monitoring Report as at 31 March 2021

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 7 June 2022 by the Assistant Director – Place updating Cabinet on the actual capital expenditure and income, together with progress made on the General Services capital programme projects as at 31 March 2022 (Period 12); and seeking approval of the changes to budgets in future years.

The Cabinet, having noted the progress made on the delivery of the General Services Capital Programme to 31 March 2022, resulting in spend of £66,230,255 or 100.42%, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report,

Decided:

- (1) to approve the adjustments contained in Appendix 2 of the report; and
- (2) to approve the revised budget for 2022/23 at £128,973,955 and 2023/24 at £82,984,577, along with future years budgets as detailed in Appendix 2.

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

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 7 June 2022 by the Head of Finance and ICT seeking approval to write-off Council Tax, Non-Domestic Rates, Housing Benefit Overpayments and Customer Invoicing Accounts in accordance with Council policy.

The Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to approve the write-off of Council Tax amounting to £16,103.06;
- (2) to approve the write-off of Non-Domestic Rates amounting to £67,194.72;
- (3) to approve the write-off of Housing Benefit Overpayments amounting to £36,006.80; and
- (4) to approve the write-off of Customer Invoicing Accounts amounting to £11,619.18.

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 from the remaining item of business on the agenda, on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information in terms of paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

Economic Development/Finance, Human Resources and ICT.**14. Facilities Management – Service Review and Restructure**

There was submitted a report (issued – members only) of 7 June 2022 by the Assistant Director – Place updating Members on a service review within the Facilities Management (FM) service and seeking approval to implement a revised operating model.

The Cabinet

Decided: to approve the proposed Facilities Management structure as outlined in section 4 and Appendices 1 and 2 of the report.

15. Consideration of Disclosure of the above Confidential Report.

Following advice from the Head of Legal, HR and Regulatory Services, the Cabinet

Decided: to authorise the disclosure under Standing Order 32.4 of the following report:-

- Facilities Management – Service Review and Restructure

16. Closing Remarks

The Chair made reference to the departure of Kevin Carr, Assistant Director – Place who was taking up a new post in South Lanarkshire; and wished him well for the future.

Mr Carr thanked the Chair for his kind words and stated that he had enjoyed his years working for South Ayrshire Council.

The meeting ended at 11:05 a.m.