

CABINET

Minutes of a hybrid webcast meeting on 27 September 2022 at 10.00 a.m.

Present
in County

Hall: Councillors Martin Dowey (Chair), Alec Clark, Brian Connolly, Stephen Ferry, Martin Kilbride, Lee Lyons and Bob Pollock.

Present

Remotely: Councillor Ian Davis.

Also

present
in County

Hall: D. Gemmell, T. Robinson, E. Terras, C. McKenzie and T. McGill.

Apology: I. Gall.

Attending: E. Howat, Chief Executive; C. Caves, Head of Legal and Regulatory Services; L. McRoberts, Director of Education; L. Reid, Assistant Director – Place; J. Bradley, Assistant Director – People; T. Burns, Service Lead – Asset Management and Community Asset Transfer; S. Rodger, Risk and Safety Co-ordinator; K. Braidwood, Head of Ayrshire Roads Alliance; A. Gibson, Committee Services Officer; C. Buchanan, Committee Services Officer; and C. McCallum, Committee Services Assistant.

Attending

Remotely: T. Baulk, Head of Finance, ICT and Procurement; T. Eltringham, Director of Health and Social Care; and M. Alexander, Service Lead – Housing Services.

1. **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.

The Cabinet held a minute's silence for Chic Brodie, former local MSP, who had recently passed away.

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. **Minutes of previous meetings.**

The minutes of [30 August](#) and [9 September 2022](#) (Special) (issued) were submitted and approved.

4. **Decision Log.**

Following discussion, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to approve the overdue actions ([issued](#)) and to note that in relation to the entry for the “Sale of the Former Grammar Primary School, Midton Road, Ayr” and following a question from a Member of the Cabinet, that the School site was back on the market and that it would be helpful for this entry and those similar to be clear in their explanations where any delay to completing actions as a result of a matter outwith the control of the officers and/or is caused by external matters or a failure to progress by other external parties to the Council;
- (2) to approve the actions listed with revised due dates ([issued](#)) and to note
 - (a) that in relation to an entry for the “Proposed Lease to “Vics in the Community” for Whitletts Football Pitch and Whitletts Sports Pavilion” and following a question from a Member, that the missives had been concluded and the matter would be resolved shortly;
 - (b) that in relation to an entry for the “Proposed Lease for Changing Pavilion at Victory Park, Girvan” and in response to a question from a Member on progress, the Head of Legal and Regulatory Services confirmed that a Petition had been lodged at Court and that an amendment was being made to the designation of the proposed Tenant and that she would provide a written update on the further progress and timelines on this matter to Members of the Cabinet.
 - (c) that in relation to an entry for the “South Ayrshire Council Parking Strategy 2020-2024” and following a question from a Member, that this matter would be reported back to the Cabinet in the near future; and
 - (d) that in relation to an entry for the “Indicative Ayrshire Regional Spatial Strategy” and following a request for progress, that the Service Lead – Planning and Building Standards would provide the Member with an update on progress; and
- (3) to note the recently completed actions ([issued](#)).

Education.

5. **South West Educational Improvement Collaborative – Regional Improvement Plan 2022/23.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 21 September 2022 by the Director of Education seeking approval to publish the South West Educational Improvement Collaborative (SWEIC) Regional Improvement Plan 2022/23.

The Cabinet

Decided: to approve the SWEIC Regional Improvement Plan 2022/23, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

6. **Educational Services Standards and Quality Report 2021/22 and Recovery and Improvement Plan 2022/23.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 21 September 2022 by the Director of Education seeking approval for the Educational Services Standards and Quality Report, which covered academic session 2021/22 and the Recovery and Improvement Plan for 2022/23.

The Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to approve the Standards and Quality Report 2021/22 (Appendix 1);
- (2) to approve the Educational Services Recovery and Improvement Plan 2022/23 (Appendix 2);
- (3) to note the progress by Educational Services and the collective efforts of all staff across the service over the past year;
- (4) to agree the publication of the report and plan in line with the Education (Scotland) Act 2016; and
- (5) to note concerns regarding funding and the emerging poverty gap.

Economic Development.

7. **Place Based Investment Programme 2022 to 2023.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 21 September 2022 by the Assistant Director - Place providing an update on the Place Based Investment Programme (PBIP) and funding allocations for projects for year 2022 to 2023.

Following discussion on the proposed funding allocation to Whitletts Vic Community Hub and Changing Facilities, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note the work undertaken by officers to shortlist projects; and
- (2) to approve PBIP funding allocations for 2022 to 2023 and projects detailed in Appendix 1 of the report with the exception of the allocation to Whitletts Vic Community Hub and Changing Facilities, which had been continued to allow an update on the progress with the lease and further consideration at the Cabinet meeting in November 2022.

Buildings, Housing and Environment.

8. Annual Assurance Statement – Housing.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 21 September 2022 by the Assistant Director - Place providing an update on the Regulatory Framework for Housing and seeking approval to submit the Annual Assurance Statement to the Scottish Housing Regulator and publish the statement for tenants and other customers.

Having received clarification on the financial sum the gross rent arrears percentage equated to and the reasoning behind the length of time to re-let Council properties, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note the content of the Assurance Action Plan, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (2) to approve the Annual Assurance Statement, as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report;
- (3) to approve the submission of the Annual Assurance Statement to the Scottish Housing Regulator by 31 October 2022 and its publication for tenants and other customers;
- (4) to note the requirements of the Regulatory Framework and ongoing work outlined to achieve full compliance in the areas of Electrical Installation Condition Reports, Fire and Carbon Monoxide Standards and Equalities and Human Rights, as outlined in paragraphs 4.1.1 to 4.1.3 of the report; and
- (5) to note the update on performance and current challenges relating to operational activities as outlined in paragraphs 4.2.1 to 4.2.5 of the report.

Corporate and Strategic.

9. Strategic Risk Management.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 21 September 2022 by the Head of Legal and Regulatory Services providing an update on the reviewed Strategic Risk Register in line with the agreed reporting framework.

Having considered the reviewed Strategic Risk Register, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report and updated by Chief Officers and having noted concerns raised regarding the cost of living crisis, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note the twelve key risks and to endorse the work currently being undertaken or proposed by risk owners to mitigate these risks; and
- (2) to agree that the Head of Legal and Regulatory Services would respond to a Member following the meeting to confirm the steps being taken by the Council to respond to the risks posed by the emerging cost of living crisis.

Corporate and Strategic/ Finance, HR and ICT.**10. Future Operating Model.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 21 September 2022 by the Assistant Director – People providing an update on the Council’s Future Operating Model.

Following clarification being provided regarding frontline delivery, office accommodation and wellbeing checks for staff, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note the updates provided for each of the workstreams in the Future Operating Model;
- (2) to request that a report be brought back to Cabinet by June 2023 outlining the benefits and savings realised through the implementation of the new way of working; and
- (3) to note that a report on the proposed future operating model of delivery of Customer Services would be submitted at a later date.

11. Additional Public Holiday.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 21 September 2022 by the Chief Executive advising of the decision of the UK Government to announce an additional one-off holiday on 19 September 2022 to allow businesses and other organisations to pay their respects to Her Majesty and commemorate her reign, while marking the final day of the period of national mourning and the date of the Queen’s State Funeral.

The Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to approve an additional public holiday on Friday, 23 December 2022; and
- (2) to agree that the required funds were drawn from uncommitted reserves if costs could not be absorbed by services.

The meeting ended at 11.25 a.m.