

## **CABINET**

Minutes of a hybrid webcast meeting on 23 May 2023 at 10.00 a.m.

Present  
in County

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

Present

Remotely: Councillors Stephen Ferry and Lee Lyons.

Attending  
in County

Hall: E. Howat, Chief Executive; M. Newall, Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development; C. Caves, Head of Legal and Regulatory Services; C. Cox, Assistant Director – Housing, Operations and Development; G. Hunter, Assistant Director – Communities; G. Farrell, Service Lead – Organisational Development and Customer Services; J. Tait, Service Lead – Thriving Communities; T. Burns, Service Lead – Asset Management and Community Asset Transfer; M. Greaves, Co-ordinator – Economy and Regeneration (Local Places); R. Jamieson, Co-ordinator – Asset Management and Community Asset Transfer; C. Buchanan, Committee Services Officer; C. Griffiths, Committee Services Assistant and E. Moore, Committee Services Assistant.

Attending

Remotely: T. Eltringham, Director of Health and Social Care; L. Reid, Assistant Director – Strategic Change; A. Thomson, Benefits Co-ordinator – Revenue and Benefits; M. Alexander, Team Leader – Housing.

### **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.**

In terms of Council Standing Order No. 17 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct, Councillor Davis advised that he was declaring an interest and would leave the meeting prior to consideration of the confidential item 10a entitled "Lease with Option to Purchase of the Foresters Hall, 44 New Road, Ayr".

#### **2. Minutes of previous meeting.**

The minutes of 25 April 2023 were submitted and approved.

#### **3. Decision Log.**

Following a reminder to Officers on importance of adhering to original implementation timescales, 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. Aerospace and Space Technology Application Centre (ASTAC) Project**

There was submitted a report (issued) of 10 May 2023 by the Director of Strategic Change and Communities to inform Cabinet of the review of the ASTAC project and make recommendations to establish a local delivery partnership taking forward development of the operating model.

Cabinet Members made a number of comments in relation to the importance of Partnership working across South Ayrshire in relation to the ASTAC Project.

A question was raised by a Member in relation to receiving updates to Cabinet as the next report was scheduled for January 2024. The Assistant Director – Communities outlined that he would arrange to provide regular updates to Members in relation to the ASTAC Project.

Having considered the contents of the report, the Cabinet;

#### **Decided:**

- (1) to note that, due to changes in the operating environment, there is a requirement to revisit the strategic direction supporting the delivery of the Ayrshire Growth Deal Aerospace and Space Technology Application Centre (ASTAC);
- (2) to agree that the Assistant Director - Communities instigates and facilitates wider partnership engagement to establish a local delivery partnership for ASTAC including Ayrshire College and University of the West of Scotland;
- (3) to note the intent to make available (but retain ownership of) the Aerospace Digital Visualisation Suite (ADVS) assets to the new partnership, to be used in the future as part of the ASTAC delivery model;
- (4) to request that, the Assistant Director - Communities provide regular updates on the progress of the ASTAC project to Members in the period to January 2024 and presents a further report on the new proposed model for the project to Cabinet by January 2024.

#### **5. Scotland Loves Local South Ayrshire Gift Card Programme**

There was submitted a report (issued) of 10 May 2023 by the Director of Strategic Change and Communities to provide an update on the Scotland Loves Local (SLL) South Ayrshire Gift Card programme, including a summary of progress to date and a recommendation to adopt a new digital version of the card as an alternative to the physical version which will also remain available.

A question was raised by a Member in relation to whether or not there were any restrictions imposed on goods that could be purchased with the gift cards when they are being used

to distribute funding , such as alcohol? The Co-ordinator (Economy and Regeneration – Local Places) highlighted that he was unsure at this time if any restrictions had been imposed on the gift cards. The Head of Legal and Regulatory Services explained she would establish whether Terms and Conditions could be attached to the use of the gift cards and whether the funding being distributed through the gift cards contained any restrictions on how it could be used and would report back to members.

Having reviewed the progress in relation to the SLL South Ayrshire Gift Card initiative, the Cabinet;

**Decided:**

- (1) to acknowledge the approaches and achievements outlined within the report;
- (2) to approve the implementation and promotion of the new electronic version, in addition to the physical SLL South Ayrshire Gift Card; and
- (3) to request officers to investigate the conditions associated with the funding provided through the card and the ability for Council where appropriate to restrict the purchases that are made with such funding and to report back to members.

**Finance, HR and ICT.**

**6. Financial Inclusion - Cost of Living Crisis.**

There was submitted a report (issued) of 10 May 2023 by the Director of Strategic Change and Communities to provide Cabinet with information on customer trends identified since the beginning of the cost of living crisis and on financial inclusion support available from Council services.

A Member raised a question in relation to highlighting financial inclusion supports to members of the public. The Service Lead – Organisational Development and Customer Services highlighted that the communications team had circulated fundraising information to members of public as well as publishing the information via the South Ayrshire magazine, and once funding information related to the period of 2023-2024 was made available, this information would also be circulated to the public.

Having considered the contents of the report noting the customer trends identified, the Cabinet

**Decided:**

- (1) to acknowledge the cost-of-living support currently provided by Council services; and
- (2) to approve further development of a strategy and action plan to address the wider financial inclusion agenda.

## **Health and Social Care.**

### **7. Joint Inspection of Adult Community Health and Care Services.**

There was submitted a report (issued) of 10 May 2023 by the Director of Health and Social Care providing an overview of the outcome of the Joint Inspection of Adult Services and progress against the recommendations made in the report.

A Member of the Cabinet asked if the report would be submitted to the Health Board for their information. The Head of Community and Health and Care Services stated that the report would be considered by the Health Board at an upcoming meeting to discuss the results of the inspection.

Having noted the positive outcomes of the Inspection, The Cabinet

#### **Decided:**

- (1) to endorse the work which has been undertaken and is planned; and
- (2) requests that 6 monthly updates are provided to the Service and Partnerships Performance Panel.

## **Corporate and Strategic.**

### **8. South Ayrshire Food Pantries Update.**

There was submitted a report (issued) of 10 May 2023 by the Director of Strategic Change and Communities providing update on progress following the previous Food Network Report presented to Cabinet on 17 January 2023.

A number of Members made comments commending the effective work surrounding food pantries across South Ayrshire.

The Cabinet

#### **Decided:**

- (1) to note the amendments outlined at Paragraph 4.1 of the report in respect of the report submitted to Cabinet of 17 January 2023;
- (2) to acknowledge the financial commitment made by South Ayrshire Council's Thriving Communities to support the continuation of three local food pantries – Maybole, Girvan and Ayr; and
- (3) to approve the Food Pantries Annual Update Report (attached as Appendix 1 to this report).

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## **Corporate and Strategic/Finance, HR and ICT/Tourism, Culture and Rural Affairs.**

### **9. Temporary Senior Communities Officer – Glendoune.**

There was submitted a report (issued) of 10 May 2023 by the Director of Strategic Change and Communities seeking approval to utilise temporary Covid Recovery funding, which was originally allocated to develop a community space with Glendoune, to extend the temporary Senior Communities Officer post that was funded through Covid recovery funding for a further period of twelve months.

Members made a number of comments in support of the ongoing work of the temporary Senior Communities Officer for the Girvan area.

Questions were raised by Members in relation to:

- (1) the expected timescale for developing the site originally allocated to develop a community space with Glendoune. The Service Lead – Thriving Communities outlined that Officers remained keen to develop a community space at the identified site in the future and that possible utilisation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund was being explored to provide future opportunities for regeneration;
- (2) the timescale for the covid recovery funds to be allocated and spent. The Service Lead – Thriving Communities noted that the timescale for spending the fund was 12 months and that funds would end following this term; and
- (3) whether or not funding would be withdrawn if plans for the shop area were not progressed in the near future. The Service Lead – Thriving Communities explained that a timescale had not yet been established for development of the shop area however, he highlighted that discussions about the shop area were ongoing with Asset Management and Estates teams as part of a review of the Girvan Estate.

The Cabinet

**Decided:** to approve funding £50,000, to be used to extend the temporary Senior Communities Officer post for a further twelve months to build on the positive work that has been established in the area.

## **Corporate and Strategic/Finance, HR and ICT/Buildings, Housing and Environment.**

### **10. Transforming the Estate.**

There was submitted a report (issued) of 11 May 2023 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development providing an update on the strategic review of the Council's estate by Avison Young; and; to seek approval from Cabinet to progress to develop a work programme that meets the strategic recommendations.

The Cabinet

**Decided:**

- (1) to approve the strategic recommendations following conclusion of the consultant's review as shown at Appendix 1 of this report;
- (2) to authorise that a review of the proposals is carried out for each asset type and validate cashable benefits and costs for the Council to deliver the outline work plan at Appendix 2 of this report;
- (3) to request that, an update report on progress be provided to Cabinet in June 2024; and
- (4) to acknowledge that, additional resources will be required to complete the review.

**Having previously declared an interest, Councillor Davis left the meeting at this point.**

#### **11. 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.

#### **Buildings, Housing and Environment.**

#### **12. Lease with Option to Purchase of the Foresters Hall, 44 New Road, Ayr.**

There was submitted a report (Members only) of 16 May 2023 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development seeking authority to enter into a lease-out with option to purchase of Foresters Hall on the terms detailed in the Addendum (confidential) to this report.

The Cabinet

#### **Decided:**

- (1) to approve the lease with option to purchase of the Foresters Hall, 44 New Road, Ayr (as shown in Appendix 1) on the terms offered by the recommended party and with the conditions proposed by officers as contained within the Addendum (confidential) to this report;
- (2) to approve, where the recommended party refuses to agree the conditions recommended by officers in the Addendum, the lease instead be offered to the other interested party on the conditions stipulated in the Addendum (confidential) to the paper; and
- (3) to authorise the Head of Legal and Regulatory Services to conclude the lease with option to purchase of Foresters Hall, 44 New Road, Ayr and subject to any further terms agreed to the satisfaction of the Head of Legal and Regulatory Services.

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

**Decided:**

- (1) not to authorise the disclosure under Standing Order 32.4 of the following report until the transaction has been completed.
  - Lease with Option to Purchase of the Foresters Hall, 44 New Road, Ayr.

The meeting ended at 11:09 a.m.