

CABINET

Minutes of a hybrid webcast meeting on 16 January 2024 at 10.00 a.m.

Present

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

Attending in County

Hall: M. Newall, Chief Executive; L. McRoberts, Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education; J. Bradley, Director of Strategic Change and Communities; C. Caves, Head of Legal and Regulatory Services; T. Baulk, Head of Finance, ICT and Procurement; C. Cox, Assistant Director – Planning and Development; L. Reid, Assistant Director – Strategic Change, G. Hunter, Assistant Director – Communities; K. Dalrymple, Assistant Director – Housing and Operations; K. Braidwood, Head of Roads, Ayrshire Roads Alliance; G. Cockburn, Service Lead – Education Support Services; P. Bradley, Service Lead – Professional Design Services; T. Burns, Service Lead – Asset Management and Community Asset Transfer; F. Ross, Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services; A. Mutch, Service Lead – Destination South Ayrshire; N. Gemmell, Service Lead – Revenues and Benefits; D. Yuille, Service Lead – Special Property Projects; A. Gibson, Committee Services Officer; and E. Moore, Committee Services Assistant.

Also

Attending In County

Hall: N. Fullard, G. Laird and H. McGuire (in attendance for item 4).

Apologies: I. Gall, D. Gemmell, A. Allan and M. Gibson.

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.

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 [28 November 2023](#) were submitted and approved.

3. **Decision Log.**

The Cabinet

Decided:

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

Education

4. **North Ayr Additional Support Needs Provision.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 8 January 2024 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education advising of the outcome of the recent statutory consultation on the proposed relocation of the Extended Learning Facility, from Dalmilling Primary School to Heathfield Primary School; and to request approval of the proposed relocation.

There was discussion on the written responses received during the consultation period, additional support needs and engagement with parents and staff.

Having considered the contents of the Consultation Report, attached as Annex 1 to the report, on the outcome of the statutory consultation, regarding the proposed relocation of the Extended Learning Facility from Dalmilling Primary School to Heathfield Primary School, the Cabinet

Decided: to approve the relocation of the Extended Learning Facility, from Dalmilling Primary School to Heathfield Primary School.

The Education representatives left the meeting at this point.

Economic Development

5. **Pavement Parking Enforcement.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 8 January 2024 by Head of Roads, Ayrshire Roads Alliance providing an update on the introduction of new parking prohibitions contained within the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 and the measures required for the implementation of enforcement procedures.

Following discussion regarding funding and required exemptions, such as Royal Mail, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to approve the Head of Roads' proposal to commence work towards implementing pavement parking enforcement;
- (2) to note the Head of Roads' intention to present to Cabinet future papers relating to the results of street assessments and future Exemption Orders; and
- (3) to note the contents of the report including the various tasks and other associated undertakings required to implement enforcement procedures.

Economic Development/Tourism, Culture and Rural Affairs.

6. Motorhome Parking Scheme 2024.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 9 January 2024 by the Head of Roads, Ayrshire Roads Alliance providing the outcomes of the motorhome parking scheme in 2023, an update on progress towards the installation of permanent facilities at the Ayr and Girvan sites and seeking approval for the recommendations relating to the future provision of the Scheme.

Having heard a Member advise of the need for flexibility going forward, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to agree to operate the North Shore Road (Barassie Toilets) Car Park, Troon site on a permanent seasonal basis from 1 April to 30 September from 2024 onwards and to note the commitment to install permanent waste management facilities;
- (2) to agree to remove the Ballast Bank Car Park and North Shore Road Car Park, Troon sites from the scheme;
- (3) to agree to operate The Battery, Ayr site at the reduced capacity of ten motorhome bays and to agree to the introduction of part time waiting restrictions for the remainder of the road by way of an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order;
- (4) to agree to operate the Vennel Car Park, Ballantrae on a permanent all year basis and to note the commitment to install permanent waste management facilities; and
- (5) to note the Head of Roads' intention to report back to Cabinet on the effectiveness of the arrangements put in place for 2024.

Building, Housing and Environment.

7. Ash Dieback

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 9 January 2024 by the Assistant Director – Housing and Operations

- (1) providing an annual report relating to the implementation of the Ash Dieback Plan; and
- (2) seeking approval for year two funding of the Council's Ash Dieback Plan.

Following questions and having noted that the wood from these trees could not be used commercially; and concerns regarding future funding, the Cabinet

Decided: to approve

- (a) the carry forward of £231,077 Ash Dieback allocated funds in the Neighbourhood Services budget to financial year 2024/25 for year 2 of the programme;
- (b) to approve funding of £50,000 from the Council's uncommitted reserves to supplement the funding carried forward for year 2 of the programme;
- (c) to approve funding of £149,000 from the Council's uncommitted reserves for the hire of specialist equipment; and
- (d) to approve funding of £81,882 from the Council's uncommitted reserves for financial year 2024/25 to enable Ayrshire Roads Alliance to undertake a second year of managing trees that pose a risk to South Ayrshire Council roads.

8. Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Delivery Plan and Consultation.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 10 January 2024 by the Assistant Director – Planning and Development seeking approval for the publication of a draft Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Delivery Plan for public consultation for a period of eight weeks.

Following discussion regarding timescales, commercial partners and the consultation process, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to approve the publication for public consultation of the draft Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Full Technical Report, attached as Appendix 1 to the report and Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy Consultation, attached as Appendix 2 to the report, for a period of eight weeks;
- (2) to request that officers take account of any responses and present a finalised Local Heat and Energy Strategy and Delivery Plan to Council on 27 June 2024 including recommendations for the membership, quorum and remit of a Member/Officer Working Group to monitor and report annually on the implementation of this Delivery Plan; and

- (3) to note that the Monitoring Officer would discuss the proposed format of the public consultation with officers, so that the format encouraged as many people as possible within the community to respond with their comments.

Adjournment.

At this point and the time being 11.15 am, the Cabinet agreed to adjourn for five minutes.

Resumption of Meeting.

The Cabinet resumed at 11.20 a.m.

Sports and Leisure.

9. Golf South Ayrshire – Golf Course Improvements.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 4 January 2024 by the Director of Strategic Change and Communities seeking approval to develop design proposals for an enhanced practice area at Belleisle Golf Course as part of the approved Golf Course Improvements.

Having noted that a Members' Briefing would be provided on the consultation process proposed, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to approve the development of design proposals for an enhanced practice area at Belleisle Golf Course, Ayr;
- (2) to approve the inclusion of the enhanced practice area within the planned public consultation in relation to the already approved course redevelopment; and
- (3) to request that the Director of Strategic Change and Communities provide a follow up report to Cabinet in March 2024 with the design proposals and estimated costs.

Finance, HR and ICT.

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10. Treasury Management and Investment Strategy Mid-Year Report 2023/24.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 4 January 2024 by the Head of Finance, ICT and Procurement providing a mid-year treasury management update for the financial year 2023/24.

Following discussion on borrowing, the Cabinet

Decided: to approve the contents of the report.

11. **Council Tax Premium on Second Homes.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 4 January 2024 by the Head of Finance, ICT and Procurement seeking Members' approval to apply discretionary powers to increase Council Tax for Second Homes as detailed in the report on the proviso that draft regulations currently laid before the Scottish Parliament agreeing this increase were approved.

Following discussion on the impact of the proposals, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to agree to increase Council Tax charges for all Second Homes with effect from 1 April 2024 by 100% (double the standard charge), subject to regulations being approved by the Scottish Parliament, with discretion not to apply the increase in the following circumstances:-
 - (a) a property was actively being marketed for sale or rent or was undergoing repairs/renovations to bring it up to habitable standards to allow it to be marketed for sale or rent, including where planning applications had been lodged, for a maximum period of up to twelve months;
 - (b) customers were actively engaging with the Council's Empty Homes Officer to bring the property back into use as someone sole or main place of residence, for a maximum period of up to twelve months; or
 - (c) exceptional circumstances exist that were outwith the control of the customer and which prevented the property from being otherwise occupied as a main residence or advertised for sale or rent (subject to annual review); and
- (2) to agree that 50% of additional income generated from charging double Council Tax should be allocated to the delivery of social housing or to fund other incentives such as the Empty Homes initiative or the Social Letting Service.

12. **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.

Economic Development.

13. Ayrshire Growth Deal – Spaceport Update.

There was submitted a report (Members only) of 4 January 2024 by the Director of Strategic Change and Communities

- (1) providing an update on the Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) Spaceport project; and
- (2) seeking approval for the next steps.

Following discussion, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (a) to note the Spaceport update and recommendations provided in the confidential report to the Ayrshire Partnership Board on 4 December 2023;
- (b) to note the legal advice obtained by the Council, as detailed in paragraph 3.11 of the report and to agree that the Council were unable to satisfy itself that the benefits of the proposals justified the associated risks and costs and therefore that the Council was unable to continue in its role as Lead Authority for the Spaceport project; and
- (c) to agree that a report be provided to the Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee (AEJC) on 19 February 2024 including the proposals, as detailed in Section 4 of the report for decision making, in line with regional AGD governance arrangements.

14. Consideration of Disclosure of the above confidential report.

Decided: to agree that under Standing Order 32.4, the Head of Legal and Regulatory Services would, after the meeting of the Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee on 19 February 2024, decide on the disclosure of the undernoted confidential report and subject always to any redactions required by GDPR.

- Ayrshire Growth Deal – Spaceport Update.

The meeting ended at 12.10 p.m.