

CABINET

Minutes of a hybrid webcast meeting on 12 March 2024 at 10.00 a.m.

Present
in County

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

Apology: Councillor Bob Shields.

Attending
in County

Hall: M. Newall, Chief Executive; L. McRoberts, Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education; K. Braidwood, Director of Housing, Operations and Development; T. Baulk, Head of Finance, ICT and Procurement, C. Cox, Assistant Director – Planning and Development; G. Hunter, Assistant Director – Communities; K. Dalrymple, Assistant Director – Housing and Operations; K. Briggs, Service Lead – Legal and Licensing; J. Tait – Service Lead – Thriving Communities; F. Ross, Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services; C. Iles, Service Lead – Planning and Building Standards; J. Hall, Co-ordinator (Planning Strategy); A. Gibson, Committee Services Officer; and E. Moore, Committee Services Assistant.

Also

Present

Remotely: Councillor Julie Dettbarn.

Also

Attending

Remotely: K. Anderson, Service Lead – Policy, Performance and Community Planning; N. Gemmell, Service Lead – Revenues and Benefits, G. Farrell, Service Lead – Organisational Development and Customer Services; M. Alexander, Service Lead – Housing Services, and M. Piper, Organisational Development and Customer Services Co-ordinator.

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 14 February 2024 ([issued](#)) were submitted and approved.

3. 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 following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information in terms of paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

The recording was paused at this point.

4. Call-in from Cabinet of 14 February 2024 – Merlin Cinemas Limited – Support Grant.

Decided: to agree the recommendation in the decision of the Audit and Governance Panel on 22 February 2024, namely to rescind the decision taken by the Cabinet on 14 February 2024.

The recording of the meeting was restarted.

5. Decision Log.

After having heard a Member of the Panel state that, in relation to the revised due dates, officers had to be aware not to allow due dates to regularly be amended, the Cabinet

Decided:

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

Economic Development.

6. Ayr Town Centre Framework.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 4 March 2024 by the Director of Strategic Change and Communities providing an update on the progress on development of a Framework for Ayr Town Centre, including feedback from the Consultation and Engagement (events and online) undertaken during January/February 2024.

Following discussion regarding the consultation, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note the positive responses from the Consultation and Engagement and the scale of responses from the community on the Ayr Town Centre Framework;
- (2) to endorse the Finalised Ayr Framework as the key document for the regeneration and development of Ayr Town Centre for the next ten years;

- (3) to approve early consideration and development of a 3-year Project Plan to advance concept ideas for the identified priority projects supporting the Ayr Town Centre strategy (this would be developed by officers within Economy and Regeneration and Planning and Development); and
- (4) to otherwise note the contents of the report and agree support for the approaches within the report.

7. Girvan Draft Conservation Area Appraisal

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 1 March 2024 by the Director of Housing, Operations and Development seeking approval to hold a public consultation on the Girvan Draft Conservation Area Appraisal.

The Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to agree to public consultation on the draft Girvan Conservation Area Appraisal and potential boundary changes, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, subject to typographical changes; and
- (2) to agree to a further report to Cabinet on 18 June 2024 which would detail the consultation findings and seek approval to adopt the finalised and potentially modified Girvan Conservation Area Appraisal and to make the recommended amendments to the conservation area boundary.

8. Business Relief Programme – 2024 Funding Proposals.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 6 March 2024 by the Director of Strategic Change Communities seeking approval to direct the balance of funding under the Business Relief programme, approved by Cabinet on 28 November 2023 and to approve a range of proposals to deliver a new programme.

Having heard the Members discuss the effect the closure of the Station Hotel, Ayr had on areas other than Ayr and having noted that the Ambition Programme would be launching in the near future, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to approve that the remaining balance of £417,000 for the Business Relief Programme be used to support a range of town centre projects as identified within the proposals section of this report, as detailed at 4.1 of the report; and
- (2) to grant officers the authority to award grants in respect of the proposals, as detailed in section 4.1 of the report.

Finance, HR and ICT

9. Budget Management – Revenue Budgetary Control 2023/24 – Position at 31 December 2023.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 8 March 2024 by Head of Finance, ICT and Procurement providing a financial overview of the General Services revenue account, Housing Revenue Account and Common Good Accounts for 2023/24 as at 31 December 2023.

The Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note the revised Directorate budgets following the budget movements, as outlined in paragraph 3.3 of the report;
- (2) to approve the budget transfers as outlined in the Directorate financial performance reports, as detailed in Appendix 1 and summarised in paragraph 4.1.7 of the report;
- (3) to approve the new period 9 requested earmarking of resources to be carried forward to 2023/24, as summarised in paragraph 4.1.8 of the report; and
- (4) to note the projected in year over-spend of £0.922m. after earmarking.

10. Financial Inclusion Projects 2024/25 and 2025/26.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 4 March 2024 by Director of Strategic Change and Communities seeking approval to progress the financial inclusion projects that had been recommended by the Financial Inclusion Member/Officer Working Group.

The Cabinet

Decided: to agree to utilise £1.055m. financial inclusion funding to deliver a range of financial inclusion projects across South Ayrshire.

11. Treasury Management and Investment Strategy Quarter 3 Update Report 2023/24.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 1 March 2024 by Head of Finance, ICT and Procurement providing an update on the 2023/24 treasury prudential indicators for the period October-December 2023 (Quarter 3) and an update on the latest wider economic position.

The Cabinet

Decided: to approve the Quarter 3 Update Report, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

Buildings, Housing and Environment.

12. Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 - Licensing of Sexual Entertainment Venues.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 1 March 2024 by the Head of Legal and Regulatory Services requesting that the Panel considers amending the implementation date for the Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) licensing regime.

The Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note the Resolution to introduce a licensing regime for Sexual Entertainment Venues (SEVs) as agreed by the Leadership Panel on 18 February 2020; and
- (2) to amend the date of implementation of this licensing regime to 1 May 2025.

13. Revised Fleet, Travel and Transport Policy 2024.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 5 March 2024 by the Director of Housing, Operations and Development seeking approval of the revised Fleet Travel and Transport Policy and the Drivers' Supervisors' and Management Travel Handbook and that every Service identify a senior member of staff to act as their Fleet Liaison Officer.

Following a question from a Member of the Cabinet and having noted that the Council had good status as to how it managed its fleet, the Cabinet

Decided: to approve

- (1) the Revised Fleet Travel and Transport Policy and Drivers, Supervisors and Management Travel Handbook, as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report; and
- (2) within the policy, that each service must identify a senior member of staff to act as their Fleet Liaison Officer.

14. MVF Watchful, South Harbour Street, Ayr - Common Good Consultation.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 4 March 2024 by the Director of Housing, Operations and Development

- (1) providing the results of the public consultation carried out under section 104 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 in relation to the proposed disposal of MVF Watchful (The Watchful); and
- (2) having had regard to the results of the public consultation, to request that Cabinet re-confirm the decision by Cabinet on 31 October 2023 to declare the property surplus to Council requirements and the approval for its removal and scrapping.

The Cabinet

Decided:

- (a) to note the results of the public consultation carried out under Section 104 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015;
- (b) to agree the responses to the representations received as outlined in Appendix 1 of the report and to approve publication of the responses on the Council website and notification of those who responded to the consultation;
- (c) to agree to proceed with the proposals to declare as surplus to Council requirements, and to remove and scrap, the MVF Watchful and its supporting structure at South Harbour Street, Ayr, as shown on the Plan (Appendix 2 of the report); and
- (d) to grant authority to the Service Lead – Professional Design Services to arrange for the removal and scrapping of the MVF Watchful and supporting structure.

The meeting ended at 11.00 a.m.