

CABINET

Minutes of a hybrid webcast meeting on 29 April 2025 at 10.00 a.m.

Present

in County Councillors Bob Pollock (Chair), Alec Clark, Brian Connolly, Ian Davis,
Hall: William Grant, Hugh Hunter and Bob Shields.

Apologies: Councillors Martin Dowey and Martin Kilbride.

Also

Present

in County

Hall: Councillor Julie Dettbarn (in attendance for item 3 only) and I. Gall and G. Laird (in attendance for item 5 only).

Apologies: D. Gemmell, H. McGuire, N. Fullard, A. Ingram and L. Donnelly.

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; J. Bradley, Director of Communities and Transformation; C. Caves, Chief Governance Officer; T. Baulk, Chief Financial Officer; S. Mulholland, Assistant Director – Education; C. Cox, Assistant Director – Planning and Development; G. Hunter, Assistant Director – Communities; K. Anderson, Assistant Director – Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance; L. Reid, Assistant Director – Transformation; T. Burns, Service Lead – Asset Management and Community Asset Transfer; C. Carroll, Service Lead – Housing Strategy and Regeneration; J. Tait, Service Lead – Thriving Communities; S. Rodger, Acting Service Lead – Risk and Safety; S. McCardie, Service Lead - Performance, Community Planning and Sustainability; S. Yeardley, Transformation Co-ordinator (Assets); J. Corrie, C. Knappe and D. Manson, Ayrshire Roads Alliance; G. Hoey, Chief Social Work Officer; L. Duncan, Chief Finance Officer, Health and Social Care; A. Gibson, Committee Services Officer; and E. Moore, Committee Services Assistant.

Attending

Remotely: C. McGhee, Chief Internal Auditor.

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 18 March 2025 (issued) were submitted and approved.

3. Call-in from the Cabinet of 18 March 2025 - Ayr Parking Consultation and General Parking Review.

With reference to the call-in from the Cabinet on 18 March 2025 relating to the Ayr Parking Consultation and General Parking Review and its subsequent consideration at the Audit and Governance Panel on 26 March 2025; and having heard the Chair of the Audit and Governance Panel and the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development in further explanation, the Cabinet

Decided: to agree to uphold the recommendation of the Audit and Governance Panel on 26 March 2025, namely

- (1) that the requested report be referred to full Council for determination within six months, and
- (2) that a members' briefing be held within four weeks to discuss the strategic and political direction of the parking strategy across South Ayrshire, which would inform the requested report.

4. Decision Log.

Having heard the Chief Executive thank Council employees for the delivery of Council services and their valued input, 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.

Education.

5. HMIE National Thematic Inspection.

There was submitted a report (issued) of 17 April 2025 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education advising of the outcome of HMIE National Thematic Inspection of local authority approaches to school improvement.

Following discussion regarding the importance of parental engagement and working with Head Teachers and having considered the contents of the National report by Education Scotland, as contained in Appendix 1 of the report, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note the practice examples from South Ayrshire, as contained in the National thematic report; and
- (2) to note the detailed report on approaches to school improvement in South Ayrshire, as contained in Appendix 2 of the report and that recommendations would form future improvement planning within the Directorate.

Economic Development.

6. Accessible Ayr Active Travel.

There was submitted a report (issued) of 17 April 2025 by the Director of Housing, Operations and Development providing an update on the progress of the Accessible Ayr project and seeking approval for officers to complete Stage 4 technical design work on a phased basis in line with current funding scenarios.

Following discussion, including public consultation, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note that funding of £778,780 had been granted by Sustrans to South Ayrshire Council to progress with Stage 4 technical design Phase 1 in 2024/25;
- (2) to note that further funding applications had been submitted, as detailed in paragraph 6.6 Table 1 of the report;
- (3) to request that officers engage with all funding partners to explore the possibility of amalgamating the two projects (Accessible Ayr and the Burns Statue Regeneration) with a view to reducing the Council's financial contribution;
- (4) to approve this report and to continue to commit to supporting Accessible Ayr Active Travel project; and
- (5) that a Members Briefing be held, within three months in relation to the possible amalgamation of the Accessible Ayr project and Burns Statue project and the future progress of the projects.

7. **Road Improvement Plan 2025-2026.**

There was submitted a report (issued) of 17 April 2025 by the Head of Housing, Operations and Development seeking approval for the 2025/26 Road Improvement Plan for carriageway, footways, street lighting and other related infrastructure improvements.

Following discussion on timer transport funding and the materials used for repairs, the Cabinet

Decided: to approve

- (1) the road improvement plan for 2025/2026, as contained in Appendix 1 of the report; and
- (2) the Carriageway and Footway Programme for 2025/2026, as contained within Appendix 1 of the report.

Corporate and Strategic.

8. **Strategic Risk Management.**

There was submitted a report (issued) of 17 April 2025 by Chief Governance Officer providing an update on the reviewed Strategic Risk Register (Appendix 1) in line with the agreed reporting framework.

Having considered the reviewed Strategic Risk Register, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report updated by Chief Officers and following discussion on various risks arising therefrom, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to note the sixteen key risks and to endorse the work currently being undertaken or proposed by risk owners to mitigate these risks; and
- (2) that a Members Briefing be held, as soon as practically possible, on the Prevent risk.

Corporate and Strategic/Finance, HR and ICT.

9. **Request from the Service and Partnerships Performance Panel of 11 March 2025 to Cabinet.**

Decided: to agree the request of the Service and Partnerships Performance Panel of 11 March 2025, when considering the report relating to Shaping our Future Council, that reporting frequency on progress of transformation activity to that Panel, be increased from yearly to six-monthly.

Health and Social Care.

10. Equality Outcomes

There was submitted a report (issued) of 17 April 2025 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education seeking approval of the Draft Equality Outcomes and Mainstreaming Progress Report 2025 (incorporating the Workforce Monitoring Report), Ayrshire Shared Equality Outcomes 2021-2025 Final Progress Report and new South Ayrshire Equality Outcomes for 2025-2029.

The Cabinet

Decided: to approve

- (1) the Draft Equality Outcomes and Mainstreaming Progress report 2025 for South Ayrshire Council, Education Authority and Licensing Board incorporating the workforce monitoring report (Appendix 1);
- (2) the final progress report for the Ayrshire Shared Outcomes 2021-2025 (Appendix 2); and
- (3) the new South Ayrshire Equality Outcomes for 2025-2029 (Appendix 3).

11. South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership – Social Care Charging Policy.

There was submitted a report (issued) of 17 April 2025 by the Director of Health and Social Care Partnership presenting a new Social Care Charging Policy for approval reflecting national guidance.

The Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to approve the Social Care Charging Policy (Appendix 1);
- (2) to note exemptions from social care charges in line with COSLA guidance; the final progress report for the Ayrshire Shared Outcomes 2021-2025 (Appendix 2);
- (3) to note the calculation of the minimum charging threshold for non-residential charges in line with COSLA national guidance in Section 4.7 of the report;
- (4) to approve the % taper applied to any residual income to calculate the maximum charge for non-residential charges in Section 4.8 of the report was set in line with state pension qualifying age and over or below state pension qualifying age;
- (5) to note the financial assessment process for calculating contributions to residential care homes follows Charging for Residential Accommodation national guidance; and
- (6) to note that the Social Care Charging Policy (Appendix 4) residential care home rate would be updated following approval of the National Care Home Contract rate for 2025-26.

Health and Social Care/Buildings and Environment.

12. Scheme of Assistance 2025-2029.

There was submitted a report (issued) of 17 April 2025 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education seeking approval of a revised Scheme of Assistance for homeowners and private tenants.

Having noted that responses to previously asked questions from an individual Member to officers would be passed to all Members, the Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to approve the revised Scheme of Assistance 2025 – 2029, attached as Appendix 1 of the report; and
- (2) that yearly update reports be provided to the Service and Partnerships Performance Panel.

Adjournment.

The time being 11.30 a.m., the Cabinet agreed to adjourn for twenty minutes.

Resumption of meeting

The Cabinet resumed at 11.50 a.m.

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 during consideration of the remaining items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information in terms of paragraphs 1, 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

Health and Social Care.

14. Practice Development Team Service Redesign.

There was submitted a report (Members only) of 17 April 2025 by the Chief Social Work Officer outlining the proposed model for the Practice Development Team under the auspices of the South Ayrshire Council Service Redesign Framework.

Following discussion, the Cabinet

Decided: to approve the proposed changes to the Practice Development Team Structure as outlined in Section 4 of the report, and as below:-

- (1) the proposals outlined a redesign to the team that would require an investment of an additional £0.100m, increasing staff numbers within the team and redefining roles and responsibilities, as outlined in Section 6.1 of the report;

- (2) the implementation of this model would, when fully implemented, realise annual efficiencies of £0.172m. which would be achieved by bringing externally provided training in-house, outlined in Section 6.2 of the report; and
- (3) in moving to the new structure there were severance costs of £0.084m. funded from the Council's workforce change fund in line with the current criteria for access to the fund, as stated in the Council's Financial Regulations.

Tourism Culture and Rural Affairs/Buildings, Housing and Environment.

15. Changes to Tenancy and Management Arrangements at Loudoun Hall, Ayr; Dailly Community Centre, Dailly; and Ivy Cottage, Troon

There was submitted a joint report (Members only) of 23 April 2025 by the Director of Communities and Transformation and the Director of Housing, Operations and Development seeking approval of proposed changes to the management and tenancy arrangements at Loudoun Hall, Ayr; Dailly Community Centre, Dailly; and Ivy Cottage, Troon.

The Cabinet

Decided:

- (1) to request that officers progress and conclude a five year Full Repair and Insurance lease with the existing tenant of Ivy Cottage, Troon;
- (2) to approve termination of the Council's Lease at Loudoun Hall, Ayr; and
- (3) to agree that officers progress the process towards termination of the Council's lease at Dailly Community Centre in consultation with the Dailly Community Council and appropriate Dailly community organisations with a view to the Council terminating its lease in 2028.

16. Consideration of Disclosure of the above confidential reports.

Decided:

- (1) to authorise under Standing Order 32.4 disclosure of the report, in accordance with GDPR requirements:-
 - Practice Development Team Service Redesign; and
- (2) to authorise under Standing Order 32.4 disclosure of the report in part, at such time as appropriate and in accordance with GDPR requirements:-
 - Changes to Tenancy and Management Arrangements at Loudoun Hall, Ayr, Dailly Community Centre, Dailly and Ivy Cottage, Troon.

The meeting ended at 12.20 p.m.