

South Ayrshire Council (Special) – 9 September 2022

Formal Questions

Received from:	Councillor Brian McGinley
Response to be provided by:	Council Leader

	Question	Response
1.	<p>Airshow</p> <p>Considering the recent cabinet decision to procure and operate an airshow next year, please advise the nature and extent of the due diligence on which this decision was made</p> <p>Please detail the health and safety considerations, the economic impact assessment, the Council's skills and capacity within Council resources to deliver, the public , partner and partnership consultations and state how the environmental and sustainability issues are being addressed in relation to Council policies and commitments</p>	<p>The Council has experience over many years of delivering successful outdoor events and festivals. However we do recognise that delivering the aeronautical element of the event will require particular skills and experience and on that basis, are looking to procure a strategic partner who will work with us to deliver the air show. The appropriate governance structures will also be put in place with relevant partners, to ensure all health and safety considerations are in place and appropriate consultations are undertaken. We will be carrying out a full economic impact assessment and will work to ensure that all environmental and sustainability issues will be addressed appropriately.</p>
2.	<p>Ayr Leisure Centre</p> <p>Given the recently provided information about the serious operational risks and environmental problems associated with refurbishing the current Citadel, does the administration consider that retrofitting would still be a justifiable best value option should the Ayr Leisure Centre not go ahead?</p>	<p>If a decision is taken not to proceed with the Ayr leisure centre project, but instead invest in the refurbishment of the Citadel, then works could be progressed in a number of ways. One option would be to carry out a top to bottom refurbishment to bring it up to modern standards. This work was estimated at £22.7m in June 2020 (it would include strip out/down-takings, fabric repairs/upgrade of roof/facades, renewal of mechanical and electrical plant, renewal of specialist floors, windows, doors, decoration and replacement of fixtures and fittings). If the funds made available for</p>

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		<p>refurbishment do not allow a full refit, then another option would be to take a targeted approach and prioritise those works that address any pressing issues with the fabric of the building, whilst at the same time helping the Council achieve net zero carbon. This would be one way to maximise the impact of the limited funds available and demonstrate best value.</p> <p>The targeted approach could also be undertaken by a rolling programme of works where areas of the building are closed off and refurbished before moving on to the next. This could be implemented in a way that minimises disruption to users by retaining access to certain parts of the building at certain times.</p>
3.	<p>Cost of Living Crisis</p> <p>Please outline the administration's plans to help our residents in need to cope better to meet the current and future financial demands of the cost-of-living crisis. Please specify any targeted initiative to help children, families, the working poor and older people with heating and eating</p> <p>In addition, would the administration outline any plans and discussions made within and outwith Council; including with public, private and third sector agencies to ensure that any support is coordinated and delivered within existing systems and agreements</p>	<p>The first meeting of the Member Officer Working Group (MOWG), set up to consider what the Council can do in the ongoing Cost of Living Crisis, has yet to take place following on from the recent Council recess period. A meeting with the Chair of the group, Councillor Julie Dettbarn, is set for Monday 12 September 2022 to agree the scope of work the group will undertake. The group will also call upon the work already underway as part of the Financial Inclusion Strategic Delivery Partnership and learn from the other key agencies involved in supporting the most vulnerable in our communities. Key to this planning will also be to make families aware of 'cost of living crisis scams' such as fake discounts on prepayment meters and fake offers of energy rebates which have the risk of leaving potential victims even more disadvantaged.</p> <p>The thrust and focus of the Cost of Living Crisis MOWG will be to bring</p>

	<i>Question</i>	<i>Response</i>
		forward recommendations to the Council in terms of what levels of support the Council and its partners can realistically deliver.