

MINUTE
of
CABINET

Minute of meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 29 May 2025.

Present:

Councillor Owen O'Donnell (Leader) Councillor Danny Devlin
Councillor Andrew Anderson (Vice Chair)(*) Councillor Katie Pragnell

Councillor O'Donnell, Leader, in the Chair

Attending:

Steven Quinn, Chief Executive; Alexis Chappell, Chief Officer, East Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership; Louise Pringle, Director of Business Operations and Partnerships; Kirsty Stanners, Head of Finance (Chief Financial Officer); Kenny Markwick, Head of Environment (Operations); Jamie Reid, Head of Communities and Transformation; Mark Rodgers, Head of Housing and Property; Michaela Sullivan, Head of Place; Graeme Hay, Education Senior Manager, Leading Change; Susan Craynor, Community Learning and Development Manager; John Burke, Democratic Services Officer; and Bethany Mitchell, Assistant Democratic Services Officer.

(*) indicates remote attendance

LEADER'S REMARKS

The Leader welcomed Alexis Chappell, Chief Officer, East Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership to her first meeting of Cabinet.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1204. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BENCHMARKING FRAMEWORK – 2023/24 PERFORMANCE

1205. The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Executive updating the Cabinet on the national Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) and presenting a high level comparative overview of the Council's performance against the LGBF indicators for 2023/24.

The LGBF had been established and publicly reported by all Scottish councils as a statutory requirement since 2010/11.

A comprehensive breakdown of the performance information for each service was listed in Annex 1 to the report and those were summarised in the report.

There followed a discussion where members scrutinised the data provided. A question was raised about the measure relating to cost per visit to sports centres, with further information to be provided to Councillor Pragnell.

Following the discussion, the Cabinet:-

- (a) scrutinised and noted the Council's performance against the comparative information provided in the report;
- (b) did not request any aspect of the Council's performance to be investigated further; and
- (c) noted that the Education Senior Manager, Leading Change would provide further information to Councillor Pragnell on the cost for attendance at sports facilities mentioned on Page 16 of the document.

COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS AND 2025-28 PLAN

1206. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships on the positive impact of the 2021-2024 Community Learning and Development (CLD) Plan, and seeking approval for the new CLD Plan 2025-2028 and associated Year One Action Plan.

The report provided an overview of progress made over the period of the previous plan, with the full summary of its achievements and impacts given in Annex 1 and 2 of the report.

A copy of the proposed CLD Plan for 2025-2028 as well as the associated Year One Action Plan were provided as Annex 3 and 4 of the report.

In discussing the item, Cabinet requested that a summary, showing the strong links between the new CLD Plan and "A Place to Grow" be provided in the first review of the Plan.

Following the discussion, the Cabinet:-

- (a) noted the positive impact on communities of the Community Learning and Development Plan 2021-2024 as set out in Annex 1 and 2 of the report;
- (b) approved the new Community Learning and Development Plan 2025-2028 in Annex 3 and the Year One Action Plan in Annex 4 of the report; and
- (c) noted that a summary/overview linking to "A Place to Grow" would be provided with the next review of the Plan.

CREDIT UNION – PROPOSED INITIAL INVESTMENT

1207. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships seeking approval of proposals to re-establish a credit union presence back within East Renfrewshire and provision of initial seed-funding to support implementation.

East Renfrewshire had been without a local credit union since the demise of the Barrhead based Pioneer Mutual Credit Union in 2021. There had been a long standing commitment to reinstating a credit union back into East Renfrewshire and discussions had taken place with

potential providers. The report detailed the process which had been undertaken to find a suitable partner organisation.

Pollok Credit Union had engaged with the Council's process and been reviewed by the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships in consultation with colleagues across the Council to ensure the competence of their proposal. Following that process, it was considered that the proposal was competent and had scope to develop a sustainable service within Barrhead and broader areas of East Renfrewshire. The full details of the proposal were outlined in the report.

Cabinet welcomed the proposal and, in particular, expressed keenness to find a suitable accommodation for the credit union's base in Barrhead, with several options being discussed and reviewed.

The Cabinet approved:-

- (a) partnership working with Pollok Credit Union Ltd (PCU) and other community planning partners to re-establish a credit union presence in East Renfrewshire;
- (b) initial seed-funding of up to £200,000 over 3 years from the Community Capacity Building Reserve (via top-up from the Investment for the Future Reserve) to support the start-up costs of the Credit Union until a break-even position;
- (c) the award of 100% charitable relief for Non-Domestic Rates to the credit union from the opening of the PCU branch in Barrhead until further notice and subsequent amendment of the Non-Domestic Rates policy;
- (d) delegation to the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships to liaise with the credit union and partners; oversee any initial investment to assist the East Renfrewshire branch to start-up and reach a break-even position; and maintain scrutiny on the development of the credit union's business plan toward sustainable status; and
- (e) delegation to the Directors of Business Operations and Partnerships and Environment to work together with PCU to determine and facilitate a suitable central location for the Credit Union base in Barrhead, noting that this may require an interim temporary location for the initial period of operation.

MINUTE OF JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (FIRST TIER) HELD ON 12 FEBRUARY 2025

1208. The minute of the Joint Consultative Committee (First Tier) held on 12 February 2025 was submitted for noting.

The Cabinet noted the minute

CHAIR

