

MINUTE
of
CABINET

Minute of meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 18 September 2025.

Present:

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

Councillor O'Donnell, Leader, in the Chair

Attending:

Steven Quinn, Chief Executive; Caitriona McAuley, Director of Environment; Kenny Markwick, Head of Environment (Operations); Kirsty Stanners, Head of Finance (Chief Financial Officer); John Buchanan, Operations Manager; Andy Dick, Get to Zero Manager; Michelle McGuckin, Chief Planner and Building Services Manager; and John Burke, Democratic Services Officer.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1315. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

LEADER'S REMARKS

The Leader welcomed Councillor McHale to her first meeting of Cabinet.

ESTIMATED REVENUE BUDGET OUTTURN 2025/26

1316. The Cabinet considered a report by the Head of Finance (Chief Financial Officer) detailing the estimated projected revenue budget out-turn for 2025/26 and providing details of the expected year-end variances together with summary cost information for each of the undernoted services as at 31 July 2025 and subsequent assessment of pressures arising.

- (i) Education Department;
- (ii) Contribution to Integration Joint Board;
- (iii) Environment Department;
- (iv) Environment Department – Support;
- (v) Chief Executive's Office;
- (vi) Chief Executive's Office – Support;
- (vii) Business Operations and Partnerships Department;
- (viii) Business Operations and Partnerships Department – Support;
- (ix) Other Expenditure and Income;
- (x) Joint Boards;

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- (xi) Corporate Contingency;
- (xii) Health and Social Care Partnership; and
- (xiii) Housing Revenue Account.

On the basis of the information, and taking account of forecast Council Tax collection, a year-end operational underspend of £2,614k was forecast on General Fund services and an overspend of £15k on the Housing Revenue Account. The reasons for departmental variances were set out in the report. It was outlined that any such operational underspend at this year-end would assist the Council in meeting future years' budget challenges.

It was noted that the forecast outturn position could still be subject to significant change. Conversely, it was hoped that management action to avoid any non-essential expenditure could increase the underspend at year-end.

Following a brief discussion, the Cabinet agreed to:-

- (a) note the forecast underlying General Fund operational underspend of £2,614k and the HRA operational overspend of £15k; and
- (b) approve service virements and operational adjustments, as set out in the notes to the tables on pages 16 to 33, and note the reported probable outturn position.

BRIGHTER BARRHEAD 2050 VISION AND ACTION PLAN AND ESTABLISHMENT OF BARRHEAD REGENERATION BOARD

1317. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment on the Brighter Barrhead 2050 Vision and Action Plan.

The report was accompanied by a presentation from the Chief Planner and Building Services Manager, and it was confirmed that the slides from this presentation would be made available on the Council's website following the meeting.

The Council had commissioned the "Brighter Barrhead 2050 Vision and Plan" project in February 2025 and the final report had been produced in July 2025. On the basis of that report, the Brighter Barrhead Masterplan was produced to build on that momentum and align with national ambitions such as National Planning Framework 4 and East Renfrewshire Council's "A Place to Grow" Strategy.

The report detailed the wide-ranging consultation that had taken place to make the local community the voice behind the vision set out in the masterplan. The voices of over 900 residents, including school pupils, businesses and community groups, had been considered.

Through the consultation process, the four guiding principles of the Plan had been developed, as well as six placemaking goals, all of which were detailed in the report, with diagrams to show how those principles and goals fed into the wider themes of the Plan. The strategic alignment with wider plans and strategies at both local and national level was also demonstrated.

It was proposed that a Barrhead Regeneration Board be established to oversee and co-ordinate the prioritisation and delivery process across a wide range of stakeholders, acting as the central body for strategic decision-making, resource and funding alignment, and performance for output monitoring. The report outlined the proposed key responsibilities of the Board. Clear lines of accountability and decision-making would be established, supported by a Delivery Framework outlining roles, responsibilities and key milestones which were

summarised in the report. A Delivery Manager would also be identified to oversee and support the day-to-day operations of the Board, supported by a multidisciplinary team, including planning, housing, infrastructure and community engagement.

Members welcomed the report and accompanying presentation. It was clarified that this Plan would last for the next 30 years, with joint working between private sector colleagues in Barrhead identified as a key area of work. The department also gave thanks to Kevin Murray Associates Consultants for their assistance in producing the document.

Following the discussion, the Cabinet:-

- (a) noted the content of the report and Brighter Barrhead 2050 Vision and Plan;
- (b) approved the Brighter Barrhead Action Plan, as outlined in the Masterplan; and
- (c) approved the principle of forming a Barrhead Regeneration Board to oversee the Masterplan's delivery.

UPDATE ON GET TO ZERO ACTION PLAN

1318. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment on progress against the Get to Zero Action Plan, which outlined the Council's plans to tackle climate change from 2024-2045.

The Cabinet had approved an ambitious target for the Council to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2045, for both direct (gas/water/fuel) and indirect (electricity) emissions, aligning with national targets for net-zero emissions as set out in the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets)(Scotland) Act 2019.

The Get to Zero Action Plan was published in February 2024, setting out the actions that the Council would need to take to reduce emissions to meet those targets

A Get to Zero Board had been established in September 2024, chaired by the Director of Environment, consisting of officers from each Council department, HSCP and East Renfrewshire Community Leisure Trust. Its remit was detailed in the report.

Highlights of progress against Year 1 of the Get to Zero Action Plan were provided, with 53% of actions completed and 17% on track for completion. Further information was provided on those targets that had been pushed back to 2026/27, would not be completed or that had been cancelled due to changing circumstances.

The Year 2 plan was summarised in Appendix A to the report, with 68 actions to be started. Highlights of those actions were provided in the report.

It was confirmed that the Council was not on track to achieve its target of net-zero by 2045 based on current projections, therefore more action would be needed to try to reach the target. Projects and actions being taken to push the Council toward the 2045 target were detailed in the report, as well as actions that focused on property, which provided a significant opportunity to reduce emissions. Further actions relating to supply chain emissions were also detailed.

Cabinet welcomed the progress and clarified some concerns around the funding of initiatives to push forward the Get to Zero agenda.

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The Cabinet noted the updates on the Get to Zero Action Plan Delivery Plans for 2024/25 and 2025/26.

LITTER STRATEGY

1319. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment seeking approval of a new Litter Strategy for East Renfrewshire, which set out the Council's approach on how it would work with communities and businesses to improve cleanliness of streets and open spaces in East Renfrewshire.

The report contained background information on the Council's approach to managing litter and fly tipping, going on to provide details on the new Litter Strategy, attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

The Strategy was framed against the three pillars of "A Place to Grow" and set out the Council's aims and ambitions for further improvement of East Renfrewshire's open spaces through direct action and engagement with local communities. This would involve participation of communities and Community Councils, local businesses and young people to help deliver meaningful and successful outcomes.

The report highlighted some of the actions that would take place to further this agenda, with a launch event planned to be held in Barrhead to reintroduce organised clean up events to East Renfrewshire, as well as the introduction of larger litter bins, with a review on the location of those bins to accompany the roll out.

An active programme of engagement with local communities would be rolled out across East Renfrewshire to encourage local participation.

Performance would be reviewed on an annual basis, with all outcomes and achievements reported back to Cabinet.

Cabinet welcomed the strategy, in particular the focus on community capacity building and working with Community Councils and other partners to push forward community engagement.

The Cabinet approved the Litter Strategy for East Renfrewshire, attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

CHAIR