

MINUTE
of
CABINET

Minute of meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 19 June 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; Caitriona McAuley, Director of Environment; Louise Pringle, Director of Business Operations and Partnerships; Mark Ratter, Director of Education; Siobhan McColgan, Head of Education Services (Equality and Equity); Ian Pye, Head of Sports and Physical Activity, East Renfrewshire Leisure and Culture Trust; Jamie Reid, Head of Communities and Transformation; Kenny Barr, Senior Programme Manager; John Buchanan, Operations Manager; Mary Docherty, Education Resources Senior Manager; and John Burke, Democratic Services Officer.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1237. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

UPDATE ON THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

1238. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships on the achievements of the Digital Transformation Strategy 2021-2025, to formally close that phase of the Council's digital journey and to outline the next steps toward a new strategy.

The Council's Digital Transformation Strategy for 2021-2025 had played a pivotal role in transforming how the Council worked and served residents. Highlights of its achievements were given in the report, and case studies on key projects delivered, such as the Revenues and Benefits Services Re-design were attached in the annexes to the report.

The report also reflected upon lessons learned from the Strategy that would inform future iterations and help to enhance resilience and modernise service delivery.

It was explained that the next phase of the Digital Transformation Strategy would take account of national thinking and contribute to other key strategies within the Council, including "A Place to Grow". Work was underway and the new strategy was expected to be brought forward to a meeting later in 2025.

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Members welcomed the report and discussed the implications of AI and the case studies provided in the annexes.

Following the discussion, the Cabinet:-

- (a) noted the wide range of achievements delivered across the three programmes of the 2021-2025 Digital Transformation Strategy;
- (b) acknowledged the formal closure of the 2021-2025 Strategy's period; and
- (c) noted the intention to bring forward a refreshed Digital Strategy later in 2025.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL FOR DIRECT BID TO HERIOT-WATT SCHOLAR

1239. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Education seeking approval to continue the Council's subscription to the Heriot-Watt Scholar online learning platform for the benefit of schools across East Renfrewshire

It was noted that the purchase of this subscription had previously been dealt with directly by the Chief Officer – Legal and Procurement under delegated powers. However, taking account of cumulative value of previous subscriptions and planned spend going forward, it now had exceeded the threshold for Cabinet approval as per clause 23 of the Council's Contract Standing Orders.

The details of the subscription and online learning materials made available to schools were outlined in the report, with direct purchase from Heriot-Watt considered to be the most appropriate avenue given the proprietary nature of the services provided.

The Cabinet approved a direct purchase under Regulation 33(1) (b) (iii) of the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015 from Heriot-Watt Scholar for access to the online learning platform at an estimated cost of £65,000 across academic years 2025/26 to 2027/28

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY YEAR 2 PROGRESS REPORT

1240. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Education on the progress made in year 2 of the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy.

The Strategy aligned with the East Renfrewshire Outcome Delivery Plan, Community Plan and Fairer EastRen Plan, as well as supporting the Council's "A Place to Grow" outcomes.

The report set out a high level summary of the progress in year 2 of the strategy, and key achievements were highlighted within the report. Details were also provided of identified areas for improvement work, which were fleshed out further within the progress report.

Members scrutinised the detail of the report, discussing various topics, such as partnership working with Early Years facilities, encouraging staff engagement and training, the impact of COVID on the outcomes of the Strategy and the Club Accredited scheme and Aging Well programme.

Following the discussion, the Cabinet noted the Year 2 Progress Report on East Renfrewshire Council Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2023-2028 attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

LOVE TO RIDE – NEGOTIATED CONTRACT AWARD (HOMOLOGATED)

1241. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment proposing homologation of the decision taken by two Cabinet members in April 2025 to approve the awarding of a negotiated contract to “Love to Ride Ltd” for the provision of the “Ride 365” programme.

Details of the programme were provided in the report, with Councillors O'Donnell and Devlin having provided approval to the proposals. A contract had been awarded for an initial 12 month period with the option to extend for a further 12 months to a total contract value of £80,000 over the 2 years. This was fully funded by external grant funding with no cost to the Council.

The Cabinet homologated the decision to award a negotiated contract to “Love to Ride Ltd” to provide the “Ride 365” programme.

THE EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL (B769 STEWARTON ROAD, B7087 CROOKFUR ROAD & C9 AURS ROAD, NEWTON MEARNs)(30MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2025

1242. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment seeking approval for an order changing speed limits on sections of the B769 Stewarton Road, B7087 Crookfur Road and C9 Aurs Road, Newton Mearns.

The Cabinet:-

- (a) noted the content of the report and approved “The East Renfrewshire Council (B769 Stewarton Road, B7087 Crookfur Road & C9 Aurs Road, Newton Mearns)(30mph Speed Limit) Order 2025; and
- (b) delegated to the Director of Environment the implementation of the Order in accordance with associated statutory procedures.

CHAIR

