

**MINUTE**  
**of**  
**CABINET**

**Minute of meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 14 August 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; Michaela Sullivan, Head of Place; Michael McKernan, Economic Development and Inclusive Growth Manager; Graeme Hay, Education Senior Manager, Leading Change; and John Burke, Democratic Services Officer.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**1276.** There were no declarations of interest intimated.

**PRIVILEGE TRANSPORT – PROPOSAL TO CEASE CHARGING FOR SERVICE**

**1277.** The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Education with a proposal to remove charges for privilege transport due to compliance requirements under the Public Services Vehicle Accessibility Regulations (PSVAR) 2000.

The report detailed the current position of the privilege transport service, where surplus seats on school transport, once all eligible children had been allocated a place, would be offered to non-eligible families.

The PSVAR had been introduced in 2000 to require a baseline level of accessibility on buss and coaches designed for over 22 passengers. Services used exclusively for home-to-school transport were exempt from PSVAR. However, they would apply to any services where even a single passenger has paid a fare, which would affect services using the privilege transport scheme. It was noted that, while many vehicles used by the Council were fully compliant with PSVAR, not all were fully compliant.

Internal discussions had taken place and a decision had been taken that to only offer privilege transport where PSVAR was met would result in an inconsistent service across the area, with some parents being charged and others receiving the same service for free. Therefore, it was proposed that charges for privilege transport would not apply from the beginning of the 2025/2026 school session, with the scheme continuing to operate as a free service.

1228

It was further proposed that the “ballot” system for assigning places would be removed and a new system implemented based on a distance-based ranking.

The proposed new Home to School Transport Policy on privilege transport was attached as Appendix 2 to the report, with the current Policy being attached as Appendix 1 for members’ information.

There followed a discussion where members received assurances that all children requiring accessible transport would be looked at on a case-by-case basis, where the safety of the child was paramount. It was further clarified that there were no safety concerns around any of the transport services currently used by the Council.

Following the discussion, the Cabinet:-

- (a) approved the cessation of charging for privilege transport from the beginning of the 2025/26 school session; and
- (b) approved the amended privilege transport scheme and agreed that it be incorporated into the updated Home to School Transport Policy, applicable from the start of the 2025/2026 school session.

## **PLACE BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2025/26**

**1278.** The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment on the Place Based Investment Programme (PBIP) award from the Scottish Government and seeking approval for the projects to receive grant award during 2025/26.

The report provided an overview of the PBIP, with £23m being expected to be awarded across Scotland in 2025/26. Approval had been given for the partial release of the majority of the budget, enabling project planning and outcome delivery, with the remainder planned for release during 2025. East Renfrewshire would receive an allocation of £385,000 in 2025/26, split into 2 tranches of £301,455 and £84,545 respectively.

The projects recommended for approval were attached as Appendix 1 to the report, including those projects that could be accommodated in the tranche 1 allocation and those that would be supported by tranche 2. Details were also given of reserve projects that could be allocated funding should it become available or other sources were identified.

Appendix 2 provided details of those projects that were funded during 2023/24, with no funding having being allocated to the Council during 2024/25.

Members welcomed the report and the projects detailed, they also discussed the specifics of the funding allocation and the potential to fund as many of the reserve projects as possible.

Following the discussion, the Cabinet:-

- (a) noted the financial allocation and new payment instalments to East Renfrewshire Council for the programme period 2025/26;
- (b) approved the projects outlined in Appendix 1 for 2025/26’
- (c) delegated to the Director of Environment to make adjustments to the proposals depending upon the detailed costs of projects becoming available; and

- (d) delegated to the Director of Environment to approve those projects from the reserve list that could be accommodated if any underspends or adjustments arose during the 2025/26 financial year.

## **REGENERATION CAPITAL GRANT BID 2026/27**

**1279.** The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment seeking approval for a funding bid to the Scottish Government's Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF) 2026/27, for the proposed Rouken Glen Park Community Wellbeing and Enterprise Hub, Thornliebank.

The report provided background information on the RCGF and the streamlining of this to incorporate the Vacant and Derelict Investment Programme. The 2 stage application process was then detailed.

The project proposed was to renew and re-purpose the former Youth Enterprise Scotland Training Centre premises in Rouken Glen Park and convert it into a Community Wellbeing and Enterprise Hub. If successful, future occupancy of the proposed site would then be subject to further research and feasibility work, with community and social enterprise organisations encouraged to utilise the space.

A map of the site was provided as Appendix 1 to the report, and estimated project costs were outlined, with an investment of £100,000 from the Council's regeneration capital programme being provided should the funding bid succeed.

Cabinet welcomed the proposal and received clarity on the timeline of the bid.

The Cabinet approved the bid to the Scottish Government's Regeneration Capital Grant Fund 2026/27.

## **MINUTE OF JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (FIRST TIER) HELD ON 15 MAY 2025**

**1280.** The minute of the Joint Consultative Committee (First Tier) held on 15 May 2025 was submitted for noting.

The Cabinet noted the minute

CHAIR

