

## NOTES FROM MEETING WITH HEAD OF FINANCE, HEAD OF CORPORATE SUPPORT AND EA C&YP CABINET

14<sup>th</sup> November 2023, MS Teams, 4.30 pm.

PRESENT; Sarah McCready (Chair CYPC), Caleb Lincoln (Vice Chair CYPC), Joe McLaughlan, Head of Finance, Ian Tough, Head of Corporate Support; Colin Hastings EAC; Tammy Whyte CYPC, Emma Simpson CYPC, Nya Mohammad CYPC and Heather McCormick, Team Coordinator YPS&D, VC.

APOLOGIES: Aimee Sharp, Girl Guides, Stewarton.

Sarah opened the meeting explaining that she sent a summary of the previous meeting to those in attendance outlining the background for today's meeting.

Joe thanked Sarah for doing that and spoke about his recent attendance at the Youth Cabinet Meeting in October, he stated that the feedback particularly that from the new younger members was very constructive. Joe introduced Iain and Colin and explained the need for consultation with Cabinet members on EAC Financial and Strategic Plans that they are working on.

Iain explained that they are also looking at launching a different path for consultation processes with their staff being in attendance spending time in communities and listening events including with the Youth Cabinet members which will allow them to capture the views of young people as well as adults.

Joe explained that Colin has issued a future cuts package to Services and gave examples of the ranges within this package as Education has received the lowest cut of 1.8m and Iain's budget cut by 3.6m. Total budget cuts are £7m.

Due to the changes in Pension arrangements for the forthcoming year, a block of funds is now available of between 20 and 40 M – this is totally a one off and would not be available again.

Council will meet with relevant experienced people and organisations to look at how to spend this appropriately and in line with suggestions etc from consultations. EAC are still the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest in Scotland for Child Poverty and this would figure highly in recommendations. Child Poverty is much more than a Council issue, it requires Societal Change.

Joe will arrange to meet with experts such as DWP Scotland, Academics and foundations such as Joseph Rowantree etc to ensure the relevant people who will advise on taking this funding pot forward in the most effective way.

It is much more than creating jobs, these bring their own limitations such as transport, childcare, availability, we may have to look at other routes into training/work etc.

Joe and Iain highlighted that the use of the financial resource available through the Pensions agreement must be spent wisely and again indicated that we need experts on Board who have worked in similar areas previously to ensure we have the best possible outcome for East Ayrshire.

Previously the Council employed 280 apprenticeships, which was the Council's largest input to Community Wealthbuilding. However it is important that we realise the disconnect between jobs and the people who need to get those jobs. There are plenty of opportunities through care and child care but less through engineering etc and due to the pandemic and number of jobs lost in aerospace there was also a lot of skills that went with them. This is becoming a real challenge.

Joe spoke briefly about the Ayrshire Growth Deal and suggestions to look more into manufacturing and engineering. He also had feedback about perhaps changing the curriculum for 6<sup>th</sup> years in schools.

There are many things to discuss about this, and Joe has invited the Cabinet to chambers to access all their views from the different areas and age range which is important to the Council.

Iain stated that the budget engagement and consultations will be live on social media sites from tomorrow 15<sup>th</sup> November and ask that everyone shares these far and wide.

The youth cabinet members will also be notified by Heather to attend their locality meetings to ensure their voice is heard at a local level. Iain agreed to send the list to Heather to inform the members of the dates in their areas. The consultation process will run until 15<sup>th</sup> December.

Some of the challenges were discussed with the Cabinet recently y Joe about the demographic shift in East Ayrshire population for the future.

Sarah and Caleb agreed to set a date that suits everyone for the meeting in Council HQ. Joe agreed that they would organise transport and refreshments and hopes that there is a good turnout again to get as wide a representation as possible.

Iain had said that the Community Planning Partnership Meetings are not always appropriate for young people but issued the invite to Sarah and Caleb to attend when they like, following the agenda being sent out, they can make that choice. However the board have expressed a real appetite to have additional meetings with the Youth Cabinet members. They are working on the CP Review and improving engagements with young people and communities.

He added that if the Cabinet wanted any of the planning partners to attend their meetings, they would be happy to do so.

Joe agreed to send out pre agenda/set questions etc for the Cabinet with regards to the follow up meeting at HQ as agreed by the youth cabinet which would also ensure they were well prepared and had a chance to think about how to best use the "cashpot" as discussed earlier.

Sarah asked to lead on the meeting at HQ and have discussion groups, however it was agreed that it might be an easier option to have these "discussion groups" prior to the meeting to make sure everyone understood what was happening, it was agreed that the Youth Cabinet would get back

to Joe with a preferred date and time for the meeting and that they would host the group meetings the week before. (Avoiding the prelim timetable).

There being no further business, Iain and Joe thanked all for attending and will await the Cabinet setting the date for the full meeting.