

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY PLANNING
STANDING SCRUTINY PANEL.

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,
on 15th November 2012 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Brian Connolly (Chair), Andy Campbell, Douglas Campbell, Alec. Clark, Hywel Davies, Ann Galbraith and Brian McGinley.

Apology: Councillor John Hampton.

Attending: E. Howat, Executive Director – Corporate Services; V. Andrews, Head of Legal and Administration; C. Monaghan, Head of Policy, Performance and Communication; D. Alexander, Head of Corporate Resources; H. McLaughlin, Audit Services Programme Review Manager; P. Linton, Performance and Change Management Manager; V. Stewart, Community Planning Co-ordinator; A. McLeod, Performance and Business Manager; and E. Wyllie, Committee Services Officer.

Also Attending: Councillor Robin Reid (Portfolio Holder); and Steve Brannagan, Programme Manager, Scotland Excel.

1. Item for Call-in.

The Panel noted that there had been no call-ins for this meeting.

2. Minutes of previous meeting.

A Member of the Panel referred to the previous Minutes relating to the call-in item, "Approval of Funding Allocation for Ayr Renaissance Business Plan 2012/13" (Page 494, paragraph 2) and to the response provided at that meeting to a specific question with regard to office accommodation and requested further clarification in respect of this matter.

The Executive Director – Corporate Services confirmed she would seek clarification and circulate a response to Members of the Panel in due course.

Decided: to note the Minutes of the previous meeting of 11th October 2012 (issued).

WIDER SCRUTINY PANEL BUSINESS:-

3. South Ayrshire Single Outcome Agreement – Draft Annual Report (2011-2012).

There was submitted a report (issued) of November 2012 by the Head of Policy, Performance and Communication

- (1) providing an opportunity for members of the Panel to scrutinise the draft Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) Annual Report for 2011/12, attached as an Appendix to the report, which contained an overview of performance, highlighted a number of achievements but also identified where improvements could be made;

- (2) advising that the Report also contained performance information for the high level indicators and a narrative summary of the progress being made against each national and local outcomes, including actions that had been implemented during the course of the year;
- (3) indicating that, at the time of writing, the overall percentages of indicators which either met or exceeded target was 72% with two indicators still to be reported and informing that this was an improvement on last year's overall performance figure of 54% but this figure might change as final indicator data was received;
- (4) informing that data for two indicators was still expected and the report would be updated once it was available and reporting that a number of indicators for which data was no longer available had been removed from the SOA last year; and
- (5) intimating that, as previously reported, a new SOA was expected to be in place by 1st April 2013 but in the interim it had been agreed to extend the current SOA for a further year to end March 2013 and highlighting that further guidance on the shape and content of the SOA for 2013 and beyond was expected from the Scottish Government in November of this year with a greater emphasis being placed on performance measures than that of the initial set of SOAs.

The Chair invited comments and questions from Members of the Panel and general observations were made in relation to:- the format of the report and relevance of the data used; some instances where outcomes could not be directly attributed to inputs; whether the new Agreement could be adapted to reflect local outcomes, rather than reporting on Government National Outcomes; whether the Agreement should include short, medium and long term actions requiring partnership intervention that could be effectively measured; data sharing with partner organisations and associated legal issues; how would challenges be addressed; the need for targeted resources aimed at tackling cycles of multiple deprivation; and the need to temper the achievements of targets with the practical effects on services provided. The Head of Policy, Performance and Communication referred to the awaited Scottish Government Single Outcome Agreement guidance and, at this stage, it was unknown if the guidance would be more relaxed in terms of reporting against National Outcomes and she also commented on the difficulties faced in capturing data that sat comfortably within the Government prescribed format.

Thereon and arising from discussion, the Head of Policy, Performance and Communication provided further information and clarification in response to the following matters raised by Members of the Panel:-

- the current position with the condition of roads in South Ayrshire and how this compared with other Scottish local authorities (Li2a(2));
- a request for further information relating to the 'Meet the Buyer' event regarding onshore wind opportunities (LO3 narrative);
- what efforts were being made to address the percentage of the working age population with no qualifications such as improving literacy skills to aid employment opportunities (Li4b(1));
- whether the rate of inflation had been taken into account for mean gross weekly earnings (Li4b(2));
- whether data was available on how many young people gained employment following participation in youth programmes (LO5);
- whether the issues relating to the percentages of overweight or obese children at Primary 1 level would be tackled through child poverty and whether statistics should also be collected at different primary class levels for comparative purposes (Li7b(2));
- reasons for the two 'red' statuses pertaining to rates of hospital admissions and bed days of patients (Li9a(1));

- whether statistics were available on abortion rates and sexually transmitted diseases;
- whether there was a correlation between the various health data sets relating to hospital admissions and the number of home care packages and, if so, were the reasons being investigated and addressed structurally; whether this added pressure to the carers providing home care services and whether there was an impact on the use of A&E services (LO9);
- the availability of the missing data relating to promoting good mental health and well-being (Li9d(1));
- the successes of initiatives within Ayr aimed at reducing violence and antisocial behaviour and how did this compare with policing and community safety led activity within rural areas; what were the deciding factors for targeted interventions; and whether there was scope for initiatives such as Keep Ballantrae Safe to be rolled out (NO9 and 11 narrative);
- the interpretation of the statistics pertaining to detections for possessions of offensive weapons or knives and the need for fuller data to provide meaningful correlations (L12a(2));
- whether the number of fire-related fatalities and casualties could be alcohol related (Li12d(3));
- reasons for the red status relating to detections for drug related crime and the interpretation of these statistics (Li12e(1));
- the 12% increase in the number of antisocial behaviour cases resolved and the impact on the victims of antisocial behaviour in terms of stress-related evidence gathering and whether a more supportive method could be implemented for this purpose (SO12(b) narrative);
- whether the Eco-School Green Flag projects could be further developed (Li14a(1));
- how were surveys undertaken to obtain feedback from residents that neighbourhoods were very good (Li15a(1));
- the cleanliness of local streets and whether these statistics related to defined areas (Li15a(2)); and
- the visitor numbers at Culzean Castle and County Park (LO17).

The Head of Policy, Performance and Communication intimated that a consolidated response to Members of the Panel would be circulated on the points that had not been answered at this meeting. She also commented on the development of the new SOA highlighting the areas which the Council needed to address which would be submitted to the Council in April 2013.

Decided: having scrutinised the draft Single Outcome Agreement Annual report for 2011/12, to note that the Agreement, including the various issues raised at the meeting today, would be considered by the Community Planning Board at its meeting of 28th November 2012.

4. **Procurement Improvement Programme.**

Reference was made to the Minutes of 23rd February 2012 (Page 116, paragraph 6) and there was submitted a report (issued) of 5th November 2012 by the Head of Corporate Resources providing an update in relation to the Council's Procurement Improvement Programme and seeking endorsement for continuing improvements to procurement processes, approaches and outcomes across the Council by considering the recommendations made by Scotland Excel, attached as Appendix 1 of the report, with a view to these being included within the Council's Plan.

The Chair welcomed and introduced Steve Brannagan, Programme Manager, Scotland Excel to the meeting who proceeded to present his findings from the Stakeholder Interviews.

Arising from discussion, the Head of Corporate Resources and the Scotland Excel Programme Manager provided further information and clarification in response to the following matters raised by Members of the Panel:-

- what would be the best way to drive forward with local Ayrshire businesses;
- supplier and contract management and the private sector;
- monitoring and reviewing processes following acceptance of contracts;
- opportunities for local businesses and social enterprise and capacity building;
- living wage issues within contracts and costs to businesses in this regard;
- the effectiveness of Quick Quote;
- ways in which to maintain motivation and whether processes were in place to drive this forward;
- whether it would be more cost effective for small ad hoc purchases to be made rather than contracted for; and
- what level of management would have 'ownership' of a contract.

Decided: having thanked both Officers and their respective teams for the excellent joint work on this Plan:-

- (1) to note the progress made in relation to the Council's Procurement Improvement Programme; and
- (2) to endorse inclusion of the Scotland Excel recommendations, attached as Appendix 1 of the report, within the Council's Procurement Improvement Plan, in order to further develop procurement capability across the Council.

5. Consideration of Programme of Reviews – Verbal Update.

The Chair took the opportunity, in the presence of the Scotland Excel Programme Manager, to suggest that a review of certain aspects of procurement be undertaken and indicated that the Scotland Excel Programme Manager had offered to speak to Panel Members in this regard, should procurement be selected as a review topic.

The Executive Director – Corporate Services provided an update in relation to the suggested process for considering reviews with the intention being that, following discussion at this meeting, a report be prepared for the next meeting of the Panel on 13th December 2012 scoping out proposed areas for review with recommendations being made to the Leadership Panel and the Council thereafter.

Arising from discussion, the following suggestions relating to potential reviews were made by Members of the Panel:-

- performance management data and ways in which to capture relevant information;
- ways in which to measure success, particularly in light of the proposed Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill, taking cognisance of the views of local communities and individuals;
- the extent of delegated powers to Officers and the current Scheme of Delegation; and
- community planning performance management and the integration of public bodies and the need for a mechanism to ensure joint working and information sharing.

The Head of Legal and Administration commented on the intention to undertake a review of the Scheme of Delegation, that such a review would be out-with the remit of this particular Panel, however all Members would have the opportunity to engage in such a review via the various mechanisms used in relation to the recent review of Standing Orders.

The Executive Director – Corporate Services intimated that she would scope out the detail of a procurement review, possibly consisting of two work streams and suggested that Members of the Panel should write to her with the specific details of their respective suggestions and that she would report on these to the next meeting.

Decided: to note that a scoping report in relation to the Programme of Reviews would be submitted to the next meeting of the Panel on 13th December 2012 with recommendations being made to the Leadership Panel and the Council thereafter.

Councillor Galbraith left the meeting during consideration of the foregoing item.

The meeting ended at 12.10 p.m.