

SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL.

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,
on 26th April 2012 at 10.00 a.m.

- Present: Councillors Winifred Sloan (Provost), John Allan, Eddie Bulik, Andy Campbell, Douglas Campbell, Ian Cavana, Brian Connolly, Peter Convery, Ian Douglas, Stan Fisher, Ian Fitzsimmons, Ann Galbraith, Sandra Goldie, Bill Grant, John Hampton, Hugh Hunter, Mary Kilpatrick, Elaine Little, Mairi Low, John McDowall, Nan McFarlane, Bill McIntosh, Helen Moonie, Alec Oattes, Robin Reid, Philip Saxton, Tom Slider and Margaret Toner.
- Apologies: Councillors Hywel Davies and Mike Peddie.
- Attending: D. Anderson, Chief Executive; E. Howat, Executive Director – Corporate Services; H. Garland, Executive Director – Children and Community; L. Bloomer; Executive Director – Development and Environment; V. Andrews, Head of Legal and Administration; C. Monaghan, Head of Policy, Performance and Communication; D. Robertson, Communications Manager; C. Bradshaw, Assistant Public Communications Officer; and D. Knight, Democratic Services Administrator.

1. Provost.

The Provost

- (1) welcomed everyone to the last meeting of the Council before the Elections;
- (2) on behalf of the Council, wished Councillor Davies speedy recovery following this recent illness;
- (3) intimated that Councillors McDowall and Moonie had submitted to the Chief Executive a number of Formal Questions and that this matter would be taken after item 3 on the agenda; and
- (4) advised that she had written to Provost John Hulbert, Perth and Kinross Council expressing this Council's congratulations on Perth being awarded city status to mark the Queen's Jubilee.

2. Sederunt.

The Chief Executive called the Sederunt for the meeting.

3. Minutes of previous Council meetings.

The Minutes of 8th March and 22nd March 2012 (Special) (issued) were submitted and authorised to be signed as correct records of these meetings.

4. Minutes of previous meetings of Panels.

The Minutes of the undernoted Panels (issued) were submitted and approved as a correct record of these meetings:-

- (1) Appeals Panel of 1st, 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th March 2012.
- (2) Leadership Panel of 13th March and 10th April 2012.
- (3) Regulatory Panel of 15th March, 23rd March (Special) and 12th April and 25th April (Special) 2012.
- (4) Rural Panel of 15th March 2012.
- (5) Local Review Body of 20th March and 10th April 2012.
- (6) Corporate and Community Planning Standing Scrutiny Panel of 22nd March and 19th April 2012.
- (7) General Purposes Panel of 28th March 2012.
- (8) Scrutiny and Governance Management Panel of 24th April 2012.

5. Formal Questions.

In terms of Council Standing Order No. 16(b), there were submitted (tabled) Formal Questions from Councillor Moonie, details of which, together with the Answers, are outlined below:-

Following the recommendations to Members by Officers and subsequent decisions of the Council on 24th November 2006, reference Additional Agenda Item A – Reconfiguration of South Ayrshire Council's Residential Facilities for Older People (South Lodge and Templeton House).

Question 1

What action has been undertaken by Officers following the decision to implement the Council's instructions in relation to South Lodge (other than the report of 4th April 2007 to the Policy and Resources Committee, Agenda Item 7 – Joint Premises)?

Answer 1

Significant focus has been given to providing appropriate care services for older people in what has become a very challenging environment. In line with national policy and direction, the model of care provision has shifted from institutionalised care to community based care delivered through enablement ensuring older people can live independently in their own homes and communities for longer. Tangible improvements have been achieved in these services which have been verified through the external inspection process.

Councillor Moonie raised a supplementary question enquiring how specifically had the instructions to Officers in the 2006 report been implemented and updated to Elected Members.

Answer

The Executive Director – Children and Community advised that implementation had been carried out by means of the Older Persons Strategy, through the Capital Programme and joint work with the NHS and progress through these had been reported to Elected Members.

Question 2

How has this been reported to Elected Members, on what dates, and through which process?

Answer 2

The Executive Director - Children and Community and the Head of Community Care and Housing have both updated the Portfolio Carrier for Social Services at their regular, scheduled meetings. In addition, the intentions in relation to Council properties and assets has been reported through submission of the Interim Property Asset Management Plan to the Leadership Panel on 6th July 2009 and the Corporate Asset Management Planning Progress Update to Council on 1st July 2010. The intentions in relation to service delivery has been reported through the submission of the Housing for an Aging Population Consultation to the Leadership Panel on 14th September 2010 and the Reshaping Care for Older People papers to Council on 16th March 2011 and 14th February 2012. The outcome of the enablement pilot in Girvan and Maybole was reported to the Community Services Scrutiny Panel on 22nd June 2011 at which time the intention to roll this out to the whole of South Ayrshire was confirmed.

Councillor Moonie raised a supplementary question enquiring exactly what information had been provided in the Asset Management Plan in relation to South Lodge.

Answer

The Asset Management Plan indicates the condition of South Lodge as poor and its suitability as satisfactory. Furthermore, the Plan indicates that the focus of the Council in asset management terms within Ayr includes providing appropriate facilities to support the provision of services for older people.

Question 3

What action has the Portfolio Carrier taken during her period in office in relation to matters set out in the report?

Answer 3

Since the Portfolio Carrier for Social Services was appointed on 30th October 2008 she has worked with Officers to ensure the best model of care for older people is delivered. Significant improvements in care services for older people have been achieved and these have been verified through the external inspection process.

Question 4

What briefings (dates and times) has she had in relation to these matters?

Answer 4

The Portfolio Carrier has hour long meetings with the Executive Director - Children and Community on a weekly basis and with the Head of Community Care and Housing on a monthly basis.

Question 5

When was the most recent external inspection of South Lodge?

Answer 5

South Lodge was inspected by the Care Inspectorate most recently on 25th January 2012.

Question 6

What was the outcome?

Answer 6

The inspectors concluded that the service had made good progress with regard to issues identified at the previous inspection. The home remained comfortable despite undergoing redecoration and the staff were actively engaged with residents who valued the staff who worked with them. The service involved residents and their families in developing the service. The Manager had continued to develop the service. Residents were all happy or very happy that they received a good standard of care and support in the home and no concerns or issues were raised. Care planning had improved and progress had been made regarding incorporating aspects of use and monitoring of medication. Decoration of the home had improved.

Councillor Moonie raised a supplementary question enquiring why Answer 6 relating to the inspectors' view was at odds with the view held by the Directorate that this was not the level of care that this Council aspired to deliver in South Ayrshire and the Executive Director - Children and Community advised that he would provide a written response to Councillor Moonie.

Answer

Councillor Moonie to provide further detail to Chief Executive prior to written answer being provided.

Question 7

Was this reported to all Elected Members, if so, when and through what mechanism?

Answer 7

This was not reported to all Elected Members as the results of inspections of individual facilities would not normally be reported in this way.

Question 8

If not, was it reported to any Elected Members, if so, to whom and when?

Answer 8

The Portfolio Carrier was updated at the first scheduled meeting following publication of the inspection report.

Question 9

Was the Portfolio Carrier informed (a) of the inspection and (b) of the outcome? If so, on what date?

Answer 9

The Portfolio Carrier was updated at the first scheduled meeting following publication of the inspection report.

Question 10

What matters, if any, are now outstanding in relation to South Lodge and what are Officers' intentions in relation to addressing these?

Answer 10

South Lodge has both a Service Plan and a specific Action Plan in relation to responding to the requirements detailed in the inspection report. These are both managed in line with the Directorate's approach to performance monitoring and continuous improvement.

6. Exclusion of press and public.

The Council resolved, in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the questions from Councillor McDowall on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information in terms of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

7. Formal Questions.

In terms of Council Standing Order No. 16(b), there were submitted (tabled to Members only) Formal Questions from Councillor McDowall and the Answers were provided.

Councillor McDowall raised a number of supplementary questions to which the Chief Executive and Executive Director – Children and Community responded accordingly.

8. Valedictory.

The Provost

(1) thanked

- (a) all Council employees for their support and assistance during her years as a Councillor;
- (b) the Chief Executive and the Executive Directors for their support;
- (c) her Personal Assistant and the Civic Officers for their assistance and support; and
- (d) all Councillors their hard work and support during her term of office;
- (e) Edwin Lawrence for his recent press coverage; and

(2) referred to Councillors Fisher and Peddie who were not seeking re-election to Local Government on 3rd May 2012, to those colleagues who were seeking re-election and extended her best wishes to all of them.

Councillor McIntosh

- (i) referred to his term of office as Leader of the Council and to Councillor Hunter's term as Leader and expressed his appreciation of the collaborative working that had taken place;
- (ii) recorded his appreciation of the work, dedication and achievement of all Elected Members;

- (iii) wished those Elected Members standing again good luck and those who were not, his best wishes;
- (iv) thanked the Chief Executive, the Corporate Management Team and all staff for their excellent support; and
- (v) thanked the Provost for all her hard work during her term of office.

Councillor McDowall paid tribute to the Provost for all her hard work and wished her well for the future and a long and happy retirement.

Councillor McFarlane wished the Provost a long and happy retirement, wished those Elected Members standing again good luck and those who were not, her best wishes and thanked all staff for their support

Councillor Little advised that she had been asked on behalf of a number of charities to thank the Provost for all her hard work.

Councillor Convery thanked

- (A) all Councillors for their collaborative working during the past five years; and
- (B) the Provost and wished her and her family, a long and happy retirement.

The Chief Executive, on behalf of Corporate Management Team and all staff, thanked the Provost and Elected Members for their hard work, wished Elected Members good luck during their campaigning and wished Councillors Fisher and Peddie best wishes for the future.

The meeting ended at 10.45 a.m.