

LEADERSHIP PANEL.

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,
on 30th April 2013 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Bill McIntosh (Chair), Bill Grant, John McDowall, Rita Miller, Robin Reid, Philip Saxton and Margaret Toner.

Attending: E. Howat, Executive Director – Resources Governance and Organisation; H. Garland, Executive Director – Care, Learning and Wellbeing; L. Bloomer, Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment; V. Andrews, Head of Legal and Democratic Services; K. O’Hagan, Head of Employee and Customer Services; J. Cronin, Head of Community, Enterprise and Development; H. Carswell, Head of Children’s Services; D. Strang, Manager (Schools and Service Support); T. Baulk, Chief Accounting Officer; E. Wyllie, Committee Services Officer; and D. Knight, Democratic Services Administrator.

1. Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest by Members of the Panel in terms of Council Standing Order No. 17 and the Councillors’ Code of Conduct.

2. Variation in order of business.

The Panel agreed to vary the order of business as hereinafter minuted.

Development and Environment - Economic Development, Tourism and Leisure.

3. Employability, Business Support and Enterprise.

There was submitted a report (issued) of 10th April 2013 ([link attached](#)) by the Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment seeking agreement to the implementation plan for the agreed projects designed to address Employability, Business Support and Enterprise needs in South Ayrshire.

Clarification was sought and provided in relation to how the Council would promote this initiative and encourage take up, that progress reports would require to be submitted to this Panel on a regular basis regarding the impact of this funding on existing budgets, and the scope for this initiative to link into the Procurement – Contract and Supplier Management Sub-Group, and the Panel

Decided:

- (1) to agree the implementation plan for Employability, Business Support and Enterprise, attached as Appendix 1 of the report;
- (2) to approve the re-alignment of existing funding for small business grants within the Enterprise service budget into the business growth grants funding within this proposal; and

- (3) to note that the relevant Officers would submit progress reports on a regular basis to future meetings of this Panel.

Community Services – Social Services.

4. Corporate Parenting in South Ayrshire Refresh.

There was submitted a report (issued) of 16th April 2013 ([link attached](#)) by the Executive Director – Care, Learning and Wellbeing updating the Panel on the progress being made to improve the provision for Looked After Children and Young People in South Ayrshire, and seeking approval for key future actions to further improve outcomes.

The Panel noted that with regard to Page 3, paragraph 4.4, line 2 of the report that “Patent” should be amended to read “Parent”.

Clarification was sought and provided, confirming that training would be given to Elected Members regarding their Corporate Parenting responsibilities and duties, as to when the refreshed Corporate Parent Strategy would be submitted to this Panel, in relation to why there were no associated risk implications of adopting or rejecting the recommendations stated in the report, also as to why kinship care had not been mentioned in the report and the implications of the Children in Care Bill on Corporate Parenting, and the Panel

Decided:

- (1) to note the progress made in improving our provision for Looked After Children and Young People in South Ayrshire;
- (2) to agree the key actions proposed in support of the development of a refreshed Corporate Parent Strategy;
- (3) to agree that the refreshed Corporate Parent Strategy would be submitted to the meeting of this Panel on 25th September 2013 for its consideration; and
- (4) to agree that the Head of Children’s Services make the necessary arrangements for a training session to take place with Elected Members regarding their Corporate Parenting responsibilities and duties.

Corporate and Community Planning - Corporate, Strategic and Community Planning.

5. Comprehensive Review of Polling Arrangements for Parliamentary Elections – Amendment to Timescale of Review.

Reference was made to the Minutes of the Council of 27th September 2012 (Page 444, paragraph 9) and there was submitted a report (issued) of 19th April 2013 ([link attached](#)) by the Executive Director - Resources, Governance and Organisation seeking approval to amend the timescale that had been agreed previously to carry out the Comprehensive Review of Polling Arrangements for Parliamentary Elections.

Clarification was sought and provided in relation to what provision was being made to improve access to polling stations, and the Panel

Decided:

- (1) to agree that as a result of the legislative changes relating to Polling Reviews introduced this year, to amend the timescale for the existing review so that it would now formally start on 1st October 2013 with all the preliminary work being undertaken prior to that date and, where permissible to do so, broadly in line with the timescale agreed previously; and
- (2) to note that this would mean that the Council could consider final recommendations in January 2014.

Corporate and Community Planning - Resources and Performance.**6. 2012/13 Accounting Policies.**

There was submitted a report (issued) of 19th April 2013 ([link attached](#)) by the Executive Director - Resources, Governance and Organisation seeking approval of the revised accounting policies applicable to 2012/13.

Clarification was sought and provided in relation to procedures for the valuation of heritage assets, and the Panel

Decided: to approve the accounting policies as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report to be used in preparing the 2012/13 financial statements.

7. 2013/14 Capital Programme – Doonfoot Primary School and Barrhill Primary School.

There was submitted a report (issued) of 15th April 2013 ([link attached](#)) by the Executive Director - Resources, Governance and Organisation seeking approval to advance funds from the 2014/15 General Services Capital Programme to allow work to commence at Barrhill and Doonfoot Primary Schools.

An assurance was sought and provided that the projects for these two primary schools would be completed within the timescale and clarification was sought and provided in relation to the impact of delays in receipt of developer contributions on the shortfall in funding for Doonfoot, and the Panel

Decided: to approve the proposals to bring forward

- (1) £1.11m funding from the £2.000m 2014/15 schools refurbishment budget to allow the upgrade and extension of Barrhill Primary School to start in August 2013; and
- (2) £469,012 from the £2.000m 2014/15 schools refurbishment budget in order that work on the first extension to Doonfoot Primary School could begin in June 2013.

8. General Services Capital Programme – Children’s Residential Estate.

There was submitted a joint report (issued) of 19th April 2013 ([link attached](#)) by the Executive Director – Care, Learning and Wellbeing and the Executive Director - Resources, Governance and Organisation requesting that funding be allocated to allow for the purchase of furniture for the Children’s Care Home currently being constructed at Forehill in Ayr.

A concern having been raised by a Member of the Panel that Members had not been informed of the full costs relating to the Children’s Unit at an earlier stage, the Panel

Decided: to approve the funding to purchase furniture for the Children’s Care Home currently under construction at Forehill in Ayr, in the sum of £115,000, by advancing this from the approved allocation for the Children’s Residential Estate contained within the 2014/15 General Services Capital Programme.

9. Revenue Budget 2014/15 to 2016/17.

There was submitted a report (issued) of 19th April 2013 ([link attached](#)) by the Executive Director - Resources, Governance and Organisation updating the Panel on the financial outlook for Councils, the implications for financial planning and outlining a proposal for the delivery of the revenue budget for the period 2014/15 to 2016/17.

Clarification was sought and provided in relation to resource demands on the Revenue Budget and the funding of budget gaps and the Panel

Decided:

- (1) to note the update on the financial outlook for Councils and to request that the Executive Director – Resources, Governance and Organisation develop detailed budget projections for 2014/15 onwards; and
- (2) to approve the process / timetable for the 2014/15 budget as set out in paragraphs 4.8 to 4.15 of the report.

10. Strategic Risk Management.

There was submitted a report (issued) of 19th April 2013 ([link attached](#)) by the Executive Director - Resources, Governance and Organisation updating the Panel on the reviewed Strategic Risk Register – March 2013 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report in line with the agreed reporting framework.

The Panel

Decided: to agree the 18 key risks and to endorse the work currently being undertaken or proposed by risk owners to mitigate these risks.

11. **National Fraud Initiative.**

There was submitted a report (issued) of 19th April 2013 ([link attached](#)) by the Executive Director - Resources, Governance and Organisation providing the Panel with an update on the 2012/13 National Fraud Initiative (NFI) exercise.

Clarification was sought and provided in relation to the primary purpose of the NFI, what it achieved and whether it was worthwhile and the Panel

Decided:

- (1) to note the contents of the report; and
- (2) to request that the Head of Corporate Resources provide Elected Members with an update on the data sets being matched and progress with the exercise.

12. **Treasury Management Quarter 4 Report 2012/13.**

There was submitted a report (issued) of 19th April 2013 ([link attached](#)) by the Executive Director - Resources, Governance and Organisation providing the Panel with a Treasury Management update for the fourth quarter of the financial year 2012/13.

Clarification was sought and provided in relation to the low interest rate that was being received in connection with investments in Local Authorities reflecting diversification in management, and the Panel

Decided: to approve the contents of the report.

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13. **Managing Workforce Change.**

There was submitted a report (issued) of 19th April 2013 ([link attached](#)) by the Head of Employee and Customer Services seeking approval of the revised Managing Workforce Change policy.

Clarification was sought and provided in relation to the outstanding issue on which agreement had not been reached with the joint Trade Unions as set out in paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3 and Appendix 2 of the report and the risk implications should agreement not ultimately be reached, and the Panel

Decided: to approve the revised Managing Workforce Change policy as contained in Appendix 1 of the report.

14. The Living Wage.

There was submitted a report (issued) of 19th April 2013 ([link attached](#)) by the Head of Employee and Customer Services updating the Panel on payment of the Living Wage.

The Panel

Decided:

- (1) to note the increase in the Living Wage to £7.45; and
- (2) to agree to pay the additional 5p per hour which was proposed through the Scottish Living Wage in advance of a national pay agreement.

15. Exclusion of press and public.

The Panel resolved, in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, that the press and public be excluded during consideration of the remaining items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information in terms of paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

16. Proposed Sale of land in Girvan.

There was submitted a report (issued to members only) of 19th April 2013 by the Executive Director - Resources, Governance and Organisation seeking consent for the sale of 0.2991 Hectares (0.74 acres) to William Grant and Sons Distillers Ltd (as shown on the plan attached as Appendix 1 of the report) for access purposes to an adjacent development site.

The Panel was pleased to learn that the proposed development was intended to generate ten highly skilled technical jobs, and the Panel

Decided:

- (1) to approve the sale of land 0.2991 Ha (0.74 acres), at Ladywell Avenue, Grangestone Industrial Estate, Girvan, to William Grant and Sons Distillers Ltd on such other terms and conditions as might be agreed by the Executive Director - Resources, Governance and Organisation when concluding the legal transaction; and
- (2) to formally declare the 0.2991 Ha (0.74 acres) referred to (1) above surplus to operational requirements.

Development and Environment - Economic Development, Tourism and Leisure.

17. Provision of Box Office Facilities.

There was submitted a report (issued to members only) of 12th April 2013 by the Executive Director – Care, Learning and Wellbeing seeking agreement to develop access to arts and culture in South Ayrshire by engaging Ayr Gaiety Partnership as the provider of box office facilities for shows and performance organised by the Council.

Clarification was sought and provided in relation to the timescale for this facility to commence and informing the public of this ticketing service, and the Panel

Decided: in terms of Standing Order 23.2 for Contracts, to grant authority to the Executive Director – Care, Learning and Wellbeing to negotiate a contract without prior advertisement in order to appoint Ayr Gaiety Partnership as the supplier to provide the box office booking system for shows and performances organised by the Council.

18. Consideration of Disclosure of the above Confidential Reports.

Having heard the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, the Panel

Decided:

- (1) to authorise the disclosure of the whole of the following reports falling under Standing Order 31.2 when the related transactions had been concluded:-
 - Proposed Sale of land in Girvan; and
 - Provision of Box Office Facilities; and
- (2) to agree that the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be requested to establish a procedure for advising Elected Members when reports became publicly available.

The meeting ended at 10.55 a.m.