

DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT STANDING SCRUTINY PANEL.

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,
on 25th February 2014

Present: Councillors Kirsty Darwent, (Chair), Andy Campbell, Ian Cochrane, Peter Convery, Ann Galbraith, William J. Grant, Mary Kilpatrick and Brian McGinley.

Also Present: Councillor Bill Grant (Portfolio-holder).

Attending: L. Bloomer, Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment; J. Cronin, Head of Community, Enterprise and Development; D. Thomson, Trading Standards and Environmental Health Manager; P. Wilson, Co-ordinator (Sports and Leisure); G. Hunter, Senior Accountant; and A. Gibson, Committee Services Officer.

1. Declarations of Interest.

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

2. Items for Call-in.

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

3. Minutes of previous meeting.

The Minutes of the previous meeting of 28th January 2014 (issued) ([link attached](#)) were submitted and approved.

4. Matters arising.

With reference to the Minutes of 28th January 2014 (Page 1, paragraph 5), it was noted that the performance review information would be reported to the next meeting of this Panel, scheduled to take place on 25th March 2014.

5. Audit Scotland Report on 'Protecting Consumers'.

With reference to the Minutes of 1st October 2013 (Page 15, paragraph 7), there was submitted a report (issued) ([link attached](#)) of 10th January 2014 by the Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment advising

- (1) of the current progress being made by this Council and COSLA to address the recommendations contained in the Audit Scotland report 'Protecting Consumers' which had been published on 31st January 2013; and

- (2) that the report examined how well Scottish consumers were protected by local authority Trading Standards and the Food Safety Services of Environmental Health.

After it had been noted that this Council's Trading Standards Service was currently in a better position to meet or address the Audit Scotland recommendations than those in many other Authorities, clarification was sought and provided in relation to:-

- (a) joint working with other local authorities;
- (b) Citizens' Advice;
- (c) the importance of discussions taking place with training agencies to ensure that trained Trading Standards Officers were available for recruitment and that this could be tied up with youth employment; and
- (d) this Council's involvement with national issues relating to Trading Standards.

The Executive Director – Economy Neighbourhood and Environment advised that Service Improvement Plans which would include Trading Standards would be reported to a future meeting of the Council's Leadership Panel and if approved would then be reported to the various Standing Scrutiny Panels.

Decided:

- (i) to note
 - (A) the progress by South Ayrshire Council towards addressing concerns detailed in the Audit Scotland Report entitled 'Protecting Consumers', as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
 - (B) the progress by COSLA towards addressing the concerns contained in the Audit Scotland report; and
 - (C) the responses to the 'Questions for Councillors' as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report; and
- (ii) to agree
 - (A) that as part of the programme of presentations being given to the Panel Members at the conclusion of each meeting of this Panel, the Trading Standards and Environmental Health Manager would make a presentation in six months time on the function of the Trading Standards Service;
 - (B) that the Trading Standards and Environmental Health Manager would consider, as part of current service planning work, if anything could be taken on board from the succession planning that was currently being undertaken by this Council's Building Standards Service; and
 - (C) to request that, in twelve months time, the Executive Director - Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment submit a report on progress being made by the Council locally, and COSLA and others, nationally.

6. **Background information in relation to consideration of potential future Scrutiny Reviews.**

With reference to the Minutes of 28th January 2014 (Page 1, paragraph 5), there was submitted a report (issued) ([link attached](#)) of 18th February 2014 detailing background information which this Panel had requested relating to topics that this Panel could undertake a Review.

During consideration of this item, Councillor Darwent, Chair, left the meeting and in her absence, Councillor Galbraith, Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The Panel discussed the information that had been provided to the Members, as detailed in the report relating to Sports and Leisure and there was discussion regarding:-

- (1) the setting up of a development team for sports and leisure;
- (2) the development of leisure trusts;
- (3) issues surrounding the development of golf in South Ayrshire, particularly for young people;
- (4) leisure centres, particularly relating to the breakdown of costs. The Panel heard further from Councillor Bill Grant, Portfolio-Holder on this matter;
- (5) statutory activity and non-statutory activity relating to Activity Centre performance information; and
- (6) the condition of sports pitches in South Ayrshire.

Decided: following discussion, to agree

- (a) that the Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment would report back to the next meeting of this Panel, scheduled to take place on 25th March 2014 regarding the non-inclusion of the sports pitches at Tarbolton and Mossblown for funding from Fields in Trust;
- (b) that sports pitches and activity centres might be possible topics for Review by this Panel, but that further consideration would be given to Review topics at a future meeting; and
- (c) that discussion regarding roads maintenance be undertaken at the next meeting of this Panel, scheduled to take place on 25th March 2014.

The meeting ended at 11.35 a.m.