

DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT STANDING SCRUTINY PANEL.

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

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

Apology: Councillor Peter Convery.

Also Present: Councillor John McDowall (Portfolio-holder).

Attending: L. Bloomer, Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment; M. Newall, Head of Neighbourhood Services; K. Braidwood, Roads Manager; C. Gardner, Senior Strategic Planning and Performance Management Officer; 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 25th February 2014 (issued) ([link attached](#)) were submitted and approved.

4. Update on Progress against the Council's Strategic Outcomes.

Reference was made to the Minutes of 3rd September 2013 (page 2, paragraph 6) and there was submitted a report (issued) of 19th March 2014 ([link attached](#)) by the Head of Policy, Community Planning and Public Affairs updating on the progress against the Council's strategic outcomes that fell within this Panel's remit which had previously been reported as 'not on target – some concerns', namely:-

- (1) "town centres are supported and developed";
- (2) "transport links to, from and within South Ayrshire are improved"; and
- (3) "provision of cultural facilities to meet the needs of all communities".

The Panel discussed the outcomes as follows:-

- “Transport links to, from and within South Ayrshire are improved”:-

The Panel discussed

- (a) the contents of an update on the number of reported damage claims from the public against this Council’s Roads Service;
- (b) various matters regarding the roads within South Ayrshire including their current condition and the introduction of the new Roads Alliance, with the Head of Neighbourhood Services and the Roads Manager.

Councillor McDowall, Portfolio-holder intimated his concerns relating to the poor condition of the roads in South Ayrshire and stated that the problem could not be properly addressed until additional funding was made available by the Scottish Government for this purpose.

- Town centres are supported and developed:-

The Panel discussed the need for more detail to be provided to Members of this Panel regarding the outcomes of investments and improvement works being undertaken in South Ayrshire town centres.

- Provision of cultural facilities to meet the needs of all communities:-

It was noted that the Panel had no further comment to make on this outcome.

Decided:

- (A) to note the progress that had been achieved against the three strategic outcomes, as detailed within Appendix 1 of the report; and
- (B) to agree that the Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment would provide an update on the town centre development activities in South Ayrshire to the next meeting of this Panel, scheduled to take place on 7th May 2014, together with information on work being undertaken by the Council’s Town Centre Officer.

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

With reference to the Minutes of 25th February 2014 (Page 3, paragraph 6), there was re-submitted the 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.

The Panel discussed the possibility of this Panel undertaking Reviews relating to Roads Maintenance, the Roads Alliance, Activity Centres, the Citadel Leisure Centre and the Activity for Health Programme which had been developed in conjunction with the National Health Service. The Panel noted that the systematic programme of service reviews and the Service and Improvement Plans, both of which were under development, would also be relevant considerations in determining which scrutiny reviews they wished to undertake.

Decided: following discussion, to agree

- (1) that an update be presented to the next meeting of this Panel scheduled to take place on 7th May 2014 regarding the Review previously undertaken by this Panel regarding community involvement in grounds maintenance competitions; and
- (2) that the discussion that had taken place, would help the Panel in its determination of the Reviews that it would undertake.

The meeting ended at 11.15 a.m.