

SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL.

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,
on 15th May 2014 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Helen Moonie (Provost), John Allan, Andy Campbell, Douglas Campbell, Ian Cavana, Alec Clark, Ian Cochrane, Brian Connolly, Peter Convery, Kirsty Darwent, Hywel Davies, Allan Dorans, Ian Douglas, Ann Galbraith, Bill Grant, William J. Grant, John Hampton, Hugh Hunter, Mary Kilpatrick, John McDowall, Nan McFarlane, Brian McGinley, Bill McIntosh, Rita Miller, Alec Oattes, Robin Reid, Philip Saxton, Margaret Toner and Corri Wilson.

Apology: Councillor Sandra Goldie.

Attending: E. Howat, Chief Executive; V. Andrews, Executive Director – Resources, Governance and Organisation; L. Bloomer, Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment; C. Monaghan, Head of Policy, Community Planning and Public Affairs; K. Leinster, Head of Community Care and Housing; K. O'Hagan, Head of Employee and Customer Services; and D. Knight, Democratic Services Administrator.

Also Attending: Dave Richardson, Audit Manager, Audit Scotland.

1. Provost.

The Provost

- (1) welcomed everyone to the meeting; and
- (2) intimated that an apology had been received from Councillor Goldie.

2. Sederunt.

The Chief Executive called the Sederunt for the meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest.

In terms of Council Standing Order No. 17 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct, Councillor Darwent declared an interest in the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for South Ayrshire 2014-2017 on the agenda as she was a member of the Board of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and indicated that she would withdraw from the meeting during consideration of this item at the appropriate point in the meeting.

4. Police and Fire Plans 2014/17 - South Ayrshire Local Policing Plan 2014-2017.

The Provost welcomed Chief Superintendent Gillian MacDonald, the Local Police Commander for Ayrshire, Scottish Police Authority to the meeting and reminded Members that Chief Superintendent MacDonald and Local Senior Officer Jim Scott had made a presentation to Members and had answered preliminary questions on their draft reports on 2nd April 2014 and that both Officers were here today to respond to any questions from Members.

There was submitted a report (issued) of 8th May 2014 ([link attached](#)) by the Head of Policy, Community Planning and Public Affairs inviting the Council to consider the Police and Fire Plans for South Ayrshire.

Chief Superintendent MacDonald responded to a number of questions and comments and

- outlined the interaction between local communities and the Police;
- welcomed comments in relation to Police Officers keeping local communities informed of developments;
- noted concerns that Police Officers were not always fully briefed when attending meetings of Community Councils and Residents' Associations and advised that she would take these comments on board;
- assured the Council that she was satisfied with the resources that had been committed to South Ayrshire by Police Scotland including the availability of specialist resources as and when required;
- indicated that plans were in place should the beach in Ayr become extremely busy during the summer months and that discussions had also taken place with their partners including Network Rail; and
- recognised the invaluable contribution made by Campus Police Officers in schools.

The Head of Policy, Community Planning and Public Affairs advised the Council that arrangements would shortly be publicised regarding the Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton Relay.

The Council

Decided: having acknowledged and thanked Police Scotland for their support and work, to approve the South Ayrshire Local Policing Plan 2014-17.

5. Variation in order of business.

The Provost advised that Jim Scott, Local Senior Officer for Ayrshire had been unavoidably delayed and requested that the Council in terms of Council Standing Order No.13.2 agree to vary the order of business as hereinafter minuted and to consider the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for South Ayrshire 2014-2017 as soon as the Local Senior Officer arrived.

Decided: the Council so concurred.

6. Minutes of previous meetings of Council and Panels.

(1) Minutes of previous meetings of Councils.

The Minutes of South Ayrshire Council of 6th March ([link attached](#)) and 22nd April 2014 (Special) ([link attached](#)) (issued) were submitted and authorised to be signed as correct records of these meetings.

(2) Minutes of previous meetings of Panels.

The Minutes of the undernoted Panels (issued) were submitted for information:-

- (a) General Purposes of 15th January 2014 ([link attached](#)).
- (b) Chief Officers' Appointments / Appraisal Panel of 21st February ([link attached](#)) and 27th March 2014 ([link attached](#)).
- (c) Scrutiny and Governance Management Panel of 4th February 2014 ([link attached](#)).
- (d) Leadership Panel of 18th February 2014 ([link attached](#)).
- (e) Leadership Panel of 18th March 2014 ([link attached](#)).

In accordance with the Scheme of Delegation and Standing Orders for Meetings, Councillor McIntosh, seconded by Councillor McDowall, moved the recommendations as contained in the "C" paragraph on

- Page 2, paragraph 3 entitled "South Ayrshire Self Directed Support".

Decided: to approve the recommendations as contained in the "C" paragraph on Page 2, paragraph 3 entitled "South Ayrshire Self Directed Support".

- (f) Leadership Panel of 29th April 2014 ([link attached](#)) – these minutes had been submitted to this meeting of the Council for approval rather than to that Panel's next ordinary meeting having regard to the timing of that meeting and the business required to be conducted being the "C" paragraph.

In accordance with the Scheme of Delegation and Standing Orders for Meetings, Councillor McIntosh, seconded by Councillor McDowall, moved the minutes of 29th April 2014 and the recommendations as contained in the "C" paragraph on Page 8, paragraph 13 entitled "Ayrshire and Arran Tourism".

Decided: to approve the minutes of 29th April 2014 and the recommendations as contained in the "C" paragraph on Page 8, paragraph 13 entitled "Ayrshire and Arran Tourism".

- (g) Regulatory Panel of 20th February ([link attached](#)) and 20th March 2014 ([link attached](#)).

- (h) Local Review Body of 19th February 2014 ([link attached](#)).
- (i) Development and Environment Standing Scrutiny Panel of 25th February ([link attached](#)) and 25th March 2014 ([link attached](#)).
- (j) Community Services Standing Scrutiny Panel of 26th February ([link attached](#)) and 26th March 2014 ([link attached](#)).
- (k) Corporate and Community Planning Standing Scrutiny Panel of 27th February ([link attached](#)) and 27th March 2014 ([link attached](#)).
- (l) Rural Panel of 21st November 2013 ([link attached](#)) and 18th February 2014 (Special) ([link attached](#)).

Councillor Darwent, having previously declared an interest in this item of business, left the meeting.

7. Police and Fire Plans 2014/17 - Local Fire and Rescue Plan for South Ayrshire 2014-2017.

The Provost welcomed Jim Scott, the Local Senior Officer for Ayrshire, Scottish Fire and Rescue Services to the meeting.

The Council noted the involvement of Fire Liaison Officers in Community Safety and Mr. Scott highlighted the Hazard Heroes, a safety promotion event held each year, the commitment to the Single Outcome Agreement and their fire prevention plan and thanked Elected Members and Officers and partners for their continued support.

The Local Senior Officer Scott responded to a number of questions and comments in relation to:-

- free home fire safety visits and the reduction in domestic deaths and of his aspirations to have domestic sprinklers in all domestic properties in future;
- the need to have bespoke safety packages for older people to enable them to live safely at home including slips and falls and that the Fire Service made the Council and its partners aware of any potential vulnerability with Older People;
- the arrangements with regard to retained fire personnel and appliances especially in areas where there was substantial new housing developments and in rural areas;
- the impact of the reckless driving campaign on young people;
- an assurance that resources would be available and deployed as needed; and
- working with partner agencies to provide risk reduction measures within domestic properties to protect those most at risk from fire whilst supporting independent living within communities and developing information sharing protocols with partners within South Ayrshire to share information on the most vulnerable groups within communities.

The Council

Decided: having acknowledged and thanked Scottish Fire and Rescue Services for their support and work, to approve the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for South Ayrshire 2014-2017.

Councillor Darwent rejoined the meeting at this point.

8. Assurance and Improvement Plan 2014-17.

There was submitted a report (issued) of 8th May 2014 ([link attached](#)) by the Chief Executive advise Council of the contents of the Audit Scotland Assurance and Improvement Plan (AIP)for South Ayrshire Council for 2014 to 2017 as outlined in Appendix 1 of the report and the proposed scrutiny activity for the next three years.

Dave Richardson, Audit Manager, Audit Scotland advised that this was the fifth AIP for this Council since the introduction of the risk assessment process and gave a presentation to the Council highlighting, in particular, the following issues:-

- that this year's shared risk assessment focused on identifying the Council's current position in implementing the Scottish Government's reform agenda covering the undernoted areas:-
 - * local priorities and public service reform;
 - * corporate assessment;
 - * service performance; and
 - * improving and transforming public services / public performance reporting;
- the criteria that scrutiny risk was assessed against;
- the senior management changes that had taken place within the Council since the last AIP;
- local priorities and public service reform;
- corporate assessment;
- service performance;
- planned scrutiny activity having regard in particular to the follow-up Best Value Audit work; and
- the scrutiny plan.

The Council welcomed the Audit Manager's comments and noted that the Council Plan which had been approved by the Council on 6th March 2014 set out the strategic objectives of the Council and the improvement themes for 2014/15 and that this was a significant step forward for the Council.

Points were raised by Members of the Council in relation to the recent validated self-evaluation process within Education Services, particularly, in relation to vulnerable children and young people, the importance of Local Government Benchmarking Framework and concerns relating to the pressures on the quality of housing and homeless services.

Clarification was sought and provided by Mr. Richardson that the substantive work would commence in September 2014 in relation to the planned scrutiny regarding the proposed reporting mechanisms.

The Council

Decided: having recorded its appreciation of the work that had been undertaken by Elected Members and Officers, to note the publication of the Assurance and Improvement Plan and the planned scrutiny activity for 2014/17.

9. **Appointments to Panels.**

There was submitted a report (issued) of 8th May 2014 ([link attached](#)) by the Executive Director – Resources, Governance and Organisation requesting that the Council fill the two vacancies on the Regulatory Panel and the Local Review Body following the resignations of Councillors McFarlane and Miller.

The Council

Decided: having recorded their appreciation of the valuable contribution that Councillors McFarlane and Miller had made to the work of the Panel and Review Body since their appointments in May 2012, to appoint Councillors Ian Cavana and William J. Grant to the Regulatory Panel and the Local Review Body.

10. **Appointments to Outside Bodies.**

There was submitted a report (issued) of 8th May 2014 ([link attached](#)) by the Executive Director – Resources, Governance and Organisation seeking the Council's approval to make alterations to the list of outside bodies

The Executive Director – Resources, Governance and Organisation advised that following the resignation of Councillor Douglas Campbell as a Director of Access to Employment, Ayr, it was a matter for the Council to determine whether or not they wished to appoint a replacement Director to the Board of Access to Employment, Ayr.

The Council

Decided:

- (1) to agree to nominate Councillor Dorans as its representative on the Board of Access to Employment, Ayr; and
- (2) to approve the appointment of Councillor Oattes to serve on the Board of the Community Rail Partnership (CRP) for the Ayr to Stranraer Rail Line.

11. Notice of Motion.

Councillor Connolly, seconded by Councillor Clark, moved that

“This Council welcomes the purchase of the “Turnberry Resort” by Mr. Donald Trump, welcomes his plan to invest in the structure of the complex and looks forward to a positive and constructive relationship

A full discussion took place regarding Mr. Trump’s purchase of the “Turnberry Resort” and the Council noted that the Leader of Council had written to Mr. Trump congratulating him on his purchase and welcoming him to South Ayrshire.

Decided: unanimously, to approve the terms of the Motion and to request that the Chief Executive write to Mr. Trump conveying this Council’s warmest congratulations and that it looked forward to working with him in the future.

12. Formal Questions.

The Council were advised that no formal questions had been submitted to this meeting.

13. Exclusion of press and public.

The Council 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 it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information in terms of paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

14. Ayr Renaissance Business Plan 2014/17.

The Council noted that this item had been withdrawn.

15. Organisational Structure Revisions.

Reference was made to the Minutes of the Council of 27th September 2012 (Page 448, paragraph 13) and there was submitted a report (issued to members only) of 6th May 2014 ([link attached](#)) by the Chief Executive outlining the proposed approach for the next phase of organisational structural change within South Ayrshire Council.

The Council welcomed the report on the next phase of the management structure including the new post of Head of Finance and ICT.

A discussion took place regarding the proposed management structure and the Council noted that the new Director of Health and Social Care would report directly to the Chief Executives of South Ayrshire and NHS Ayrshire and Arran and that a review of ICT strategy, systems and processes would commence in the near future, within a report to the Leadership Panel later this month.

The Council

Decided: to approve

- (1) the revised staffing and structural arrangements in respect of Chief Officers as outlined in Appendix 2 of the report and to note that the Chief Executive would issue her Update to all employees advising of the changes to the corporate management team structure; and
- (2) consequential revisions to the Scheme of Delegation and that a list of these changes would be submitted to the Council on 3rd July 2014.

16. Consideration of Disclosure of the above Confidential Report.

Having heard the Executive Director – Resources, Governance and Organisation, the Council

Decided: to authorise the disclosure of the report on Organisational Structure Revisions falling under Standing Order 31.2.

The meeting ended at 12.20 p.m.