

PARTNERSHIPS PANEL.

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,
on 15th September 2015 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors John Hampton (Chair), John Allan, Andy Campbell, Ian Cavana, Ann Galbraith, William J. Grant and Mary Kilpatrick.

Apology: Councillor Sandra Goldie.

Also present: Councillors Bill Grant, McIntosh, Reid and Toner, Portfolio Holders.

Attending: Lesley Bloomer, Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment; Claire Monaghan, Head of Communities; Donald Gillies, Head of Property and Risk; Mark Baker, Head of Policy and Performance; Tom Burns, Asset Manager; Marion Young, Community Planning Officer; and Janice McClure, Committee Services Officer.

Also Attending: Chief Superintendent Gillian MacDonald and Chief Inspector Eileen Taylor, Police Scotland (for items 6 and 7 only); and David Bell, Managing Director and Patrick Dunn, Planner, Ayr Renaissance LLP (for item 9 only).

1. Declarations of Interest.

Councillor Cavana declared an interest in item 5 on the agenda entitled “Projects Funded by Community Planning” as he was a Member Representative of the North Ayr Resource Centre and advised that he would not participate in any discussion regarding this Service, however, he would participate in discussions on all other projects funded via Community Planning included in this report.

2. Minutes of previous meeting.

The minutes of 9th June 2015 (issued) ([link attached](#)) were submitted and approved.

3. Work Programme and Action Plan.

There was submitted an Action Log and Work Programme for this Panel (issued) ([link attached](#)).

The Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment advised that all actions outlined in the Action Plan had now been completed; and that the report on Ayrshire and Arran Tourism Team 2014/15 scheduled to be submitted to this meeting would now be submitted to the meeting of this Panel scheduled to be held on 24th November 2015 to allow the Review of Tourism to be completed and reported to the Ayrshire Shared Services Joint Committee in the first instance.

The Panel

Decided: to note the Action Log and Work Programme.

4. **Performance Review of Common Good Funds.**

There was submitted a report (issued) of 7th September 2015 ([link attached](#)) by the Head of Property and Risk outlining the performance of Common Good Funds administered by the Council.

The Panel heard from the Head of Property and Risk regarding the performance of the Common Good accounts as outlined in the report and questions were raised and responses provided by Officers and a full discussion took place on:- the deficit within the Girvan Common Good Fund; the maintenance programme for the Council's disused buildings; whether some currently vacant High Street shops would be acquired by Ayr Renaissance; how many shops in South Ayrshire were owned by the Council and how many were empty; and the long-term plans for Newton Tower and various other large buildings in Main Street, Ayr.

The Panel

Decided: following scrutiny, to note the position in relation to the Common Good Funds administered by the Council.

5. **Projects Funded by Community Planning.**

There was submitted a report (issued) of 20th August 2015 ([link attached](#)) by the Head of Communities inviting the Panel to scrutinise the progress made during 2014/15 by projects funded via Community Planning.

Questions were raised by Panel Members and responded to by Officers and a full discussion took place on:- the wide range of projects funded by Community Planning; how the Council was supporting communities; the possibility of employing an Officer dedicated to achieving grant funding for projects and for the Council; and the percentage of workers involved in these projects who were employed by this Council. Regarding this last point, the Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment advised that she would issue this information to Panel Members following the meeting.

The Panel

Decided: following scrutiny, to note the position regarding Projects Funded by Community Planning.

6. **Police Performance Report.**

There was submitted a report (issued) of 8th September 2015 ([link attached](#)) by the Head of Communities inviting the Panel to scrutinise Police performance from 1st April to 31st July 2015 as set out in the papers provided by Chief Superintendent Gillian MacDonald, attached as an Appendix to the report.

Chief Superintendent MacDonald updated the Panel on the priorities and objectives from the South Ayrshire Local Police Plan 2014-17 and the progress made in these areas, namely:-

- (1) Drug Dealing and Misuse;
- (2) Road Safety;
- (3) Violence and Anti-Social Behaviour;
- (4) Dishonesty; and
- (5) Public Confidence.

Questions were raised by Panel Members and responses provided by Chief Superintendent MacDonald and Chief Inspector Taylor and a full discussion took place in relation to:- the rise in house break-ins, whether certain areas of South Ayrshire had a higher crime rate than others and whether additional resources were being provided for these areas; and whether Traffic Police would patrol areas where speed limits had recently been lowered in Maybole and Chief Inspector Taylor outlined that she would ensure this occurred.

The Panel

Decided: to note the Police Performance Report from 1st April to 31st July 2015.

7. Police Scotland Annual Police Plan 2016-17.

There was submitted a report (issued) ([link attached](#)) of 8th September 2015 by the Head of Communities inviting input from Panel Members on the development of Police Scotland's Annual Police Plan for 2016/17.

The Head of Communities advised that this was an opportunity for the Panel to have early consultation on the Annual Police Plan and to provide feedback on the Plan.

Questions were raised by Panel Members and responses provided by Chief Superintendent MacDonald and the Head of Communities and a full discussion took place in relation to:- targeting areas where drugs use/dealing was prevalent; Police Scotland monitoring of areas for anti-social behaviour to ensure that deployments were in place when required and from a Community Planning perspective, activities being provided for young people to minimise anti-social behaviour; road safety and an initiative focussing on HGVs and their risk to other road users; and whether road safety was taught at primary schools. The Head of Communities outlined that she would provide Panel Members with information on the road safety programme run by this Council, Ayrshire Roads Alliance and Community Safety.

The Panel

Decided: to note the Police Scotland Annual Police Plan 2016-17 and to request that Chief Superintendent MacDonald take on board the Panel's comments and concerns.

8. 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 from the remaining item of business on the agenda, on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information in terms of paragraph 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

9. Progress Against Plan – Ayr Renaissance LLP.

Reference was made to the Minutes of South Ayrshire Council of 5th March 2015 (Page 9, paragraph 15) when it had been decided

- (1) to approve the Ayr Renaissance Business Plan for the period 2015/18 as set out in the report;
- (2) to approve the carryover of £93,160 from financial year 2014/15 into 2015/16;
- (3) to approve Council contributions to Ayr Renaissance of £436,000 for 2015/16, in addition to the carryover as outline at (2) above, and £436,000 for 2016/17;
- (4) to note return of funds of £219,740 to South Ayrshire Council from 2014/15 Ayr Renaissance budget;
- (5) to approve a contribution of £436,000 for 2017/18; and
- (6) to agree that a presentation be organised for all Elected Members in relation to Ayr Renaissance,

and there was submitted a report (issued to members only) of 15th September 2015 by the Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment inviting Panel Members to consider progress against the Ayr Renaissance LLP Business Plan (as set out in Appendix A to the report).

Following questions and discussion, the Panel

Decided: to note the progress against the Ayr Renaissance Plan as set out in Appendix A to the report.

The meeting ended at 11.35 a.m.