

## **PARTNERSHIPS PANEL.**

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,  
on 21st April 2015 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Sandra Goldie (Chair), Andy Campbell, Ann Galbraith, William J. Grant and Mary Kilpatrick.

Apologies: Councillors John Allan, Ian Cavana and John Hampton.

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

Attending: L. Bloomer, Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment; C. Monaghan, Head of Communities; V. Stewart, Community Planning Co-ordinator; and J. McClure, Committee Services Officer.

Also Attending: Jim Scott, Local Senior Officer for Ayrshire, Scottish Fire and Rescue Services.

### **1. Chair.**

In the absence of the Chair, it was agreed that Councillor Goldie should Chair the meeting.

Councillor Goldie then took the Chair and wished Councillor Hampton a speedy recovery from his recent surgery.

### **2. 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.

### **3. Variation in Order of Business.**

In terms of Council Standing Order No. 13.2, the Panel agreed to vary the order of business as hereinafter minuted.

### **4. Local Fire and Rescue Plan – Progress Report.**

There was submitted a report (issued) of 9th April 2015 ([link attached](#)) by the Head of Communities inviting the Partnerships Panel to scrutinise progress against the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for South Ayrshire which was agreed at the meeting of the Council on 15th May 2014 (Page 4, paragraph 7) and to consider, in light of performance information, whether there were any improvements they wished to recommend and whether there were revisions that they wished to see to the Fire Plan 2014/17.

The Chair welcomed Jim Scott, the Local Senior Officer for Ayrshire, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to the meeting and Mr. Scott then took the Panel through the Performance Report for 1st April 2014 to 28th February 2015 outlining statistics, highlighting the priorities identified and those areas being monitored and thanked the various agencies who had worked in liaison with the Fire Service during various Campaigns.

Questions were raised by Panel Members in relation to

- (1) accidental dwelling fires and why some areas had considerably higher incidences of these fires and Mr. Scott advised that an analysis had been carried out on this matter to attempt to establish trends and that most accidental dwelling fires were linked to cooking, therefore, the placement of detectors was important; and that an advertising campaign was currently being broadcast across local radio on the importance of being vigilant whilst cooking;
- (2) whether alcohol and drugs played a part in fires igniting and Mr. Scott advised that alcohol and "other substances" were an influence in 1 in 5 fires in the statistics within this report;
- (3) the time of day when fires broke out and Mr. Scott advised that most fires took place around meal times and that Officers from Fire and Rescue had been installing heat detectors in the kitchens of home owners as detection was important;
- (4) the numbers of deliberate primary fires increasing and were measures now in place to reduce the numbers and Mr. Scott advised that there were various reasons for fire raising and that the Fire Service worked in conjunction with Police Scotland on this matter to reduce the numbers of deliberate primary fires;
- (5) the reason for figures for road accidents being highest in Ayr West and, following discussion, it was noted that, as Ayr West ward included the Town Centre, this contributed to the high incidences of road accidents; and Mr. Scott advised that a Task Group was being established to identify parts of routes where most accidents occurred to ensure that roads were as safe as possible;
- (6) people making malicious calls and Mr. Scott advised that, due to modern technology, this was not as much of a problem as it previously had been and that if numerous calls were received from a mobile telephone, the mobile phone company could be requested to disable the phone to ensure that the malicious calls did not continue;
- (7) whether smoking was still a contributory factor in accidental fires and Mr. Scott advised that smoking was still a contributory factor, along with electrical products which were not to a suitable standard; and
- (8) whether overloading adaptors with plugs was a problem and Mr. Scott advised that the Fire and Rescue Service promoted surge protection devices to alleviate this problem.

The Chair, on behalf of the Panel, thanked Mr. Scott for his interesting and informative update.

**Decided:** to note the progress made against the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for 2014/17.

**5. Minutes of previous meeting.**

The minutes of 10th February 2015 (issued) ([link attached](#)) were submitted and approved.

**6. 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, with regard to item 2 on the Work Programme regarding the Planning Manager liaising with Police Scotland on unauthorised planning developments, this was a civil matter and not a criminal matter in Scotland, therefore, Police Scotland had no powers to prosecute and she was proposing that this item be removed from the Work Programme.

**Decided:**

- (1) to note the Action Log and Work Programme; and
- (2) to agree to remove the matter of the Planning Manager liaising with Police Scotland on unauthorised planning developments from the Work Programme.

**7. Correspondence relating to Police and Fire Services.**

There was submitted a report (issued) of 31st March 2015 ([link attached](#)) by the Head of Communities

- (1) advising of the following pieces of correspondence received relating to Police services:-
  - (a) a letter [Appendix 1](#) from Derek Penman, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary who had written to this Council on 3rd March 2015 setting out their scrutiny plans for 2015-17 and inviting any comments by 20th March 2015 and, having reviewed the scrutiny plans, the Council replied intimating that they did not have any comments to make on the scrutiny plans of HMIC at this time; and
  - (b) a letter [Appendix 2](#) to the Chief Executive of this Authority from the Chief Superintendent, Local Policing Commander, Police Scotland with information about the review of Stop and Search tactics and inviting responses to consultation questions by 17th March 2015 and that a draft response [Appendix 3](#) was prepared by the Community Safety Team following consultation with the Leader, the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and the Chair of the Partnerships Panel; and
- (2) reporting that the Board of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service had hosted a local engagement event in the County Hall on 25th March 2015 attended by Elected Members, community planning and community safety partners, and community representatives.

**Decided:** to note the correspondence received.

8. **Audit Scotland National Report : Community Planning – Turning Ambition into Action.**

There was submitted a report (issued) of 31st March 2015 ([link attached](#)) by the Head of Communities advising of the main points that had been raised in the recent Audit Scotland Report '*Community Planning – Turning Ambition into Action*' published in November 2014 and attached as [Appendix I](#) of the report.

**Decided:**

- (1) to note the information and recommendations contained in the Audit Scotland report;
- (2) to note that new governance arrangements had been introduced by the South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership; and
- (3) to agree that a briefing/workshop session be held for Members of the Partnerships Panel to utilise the Audit Scotland partnerships toolkit.

The meeting ended at 11.00 a.m.