

## **PARTNERSHIPS PANEL.**

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,  
on 24th November 2015 at 10.00 a.m.

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

Apology: Councillor John Allan.

Also present: Councillor Bill Grant, Portfolio Holder.

Attending: Lesley Bloomer, Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment; Claire Monaghan, Head of Communities; Jill Cronin, Head of Enterprise, Development and Leisure; and Janice McClure, Committee Services Officer.

Also Attending: Kenneth Hankinson, Group Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service; and Jeremy Wyatt, Chief Executive, Ayr Gaiety Partnership.

### **1. Declarations of Interest.**

Councillor Galbraith declared an interest in item 5 on the agenda entitled “Ayr Gaiety Partnership Performance Report” as she was a Director of the Board and advised that she would not participate in consideration of that item.

Similarly, Councillor Hampton also declared an interest in item 5 on the agenda entitled “Ayr Gaiety Partnership Performance Report” as he had been party to discussions on this matter and advised that he would leave the room during consideration of this item.

### **2. Minutes of previous meeting.**

The [minutes](#) of 15th September 2015 (issued) were submitted and approved.

### **3. Work Programme and Action Plan.**

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

The Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment advised

- (1) that all actions outlined in the Action Plan had now been completed;
- (2) that the Work Programme now included items being considered at the Partnerships Panel meeting of 9th February 2016; and
- (3) that the Work Programme also included updates on those reports scheduled to be considered today which had been re-scheduled to be considered at future meetings.

The Panel

**Decided:** to note the Action Log and Work Programme.

#### 4. **Fire Performance Report.**

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 10th November 2015 by the Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment inviting the Panel to scrutinise the local performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service from 1st April to 30th September 2015 and Group Manager Kenneth Hankinson of Scottish Fire and Rescue highlighted key areas within the report.

Questions were raised by Panel Members in relation to:-

- (1) whether assistance was provided for those people who had accidental dwelling fires while under the influence of alcohol or drugs and the Group Manager advised that work was being undertaken with the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership on this; that the Community Action Team did presentations to addiction meetings and training was given to Mental Health Nurses on fire safety to pass on to people with addictions who may be at risk;
- (2) whether there were more accidental dwelling fires over the Christmas period and the Group Manager confirmed that there generally was due to more use of candles, overloading of adaptors with plugs and increased alcohol consumption and that the Fire Service would recommend using strip type adaptors with a safety cut-out feature as opposed to a plug-type adaptor and that mobile phones, etc. should not be left charging overnight;
- (3) whether home safety visits were carried out at sheltered housing units and the Group Manager advised that Scottish Fire and Rescue Service liaised with Councils to visit sheltered housing units when an event was taking place, e.g. a coffee morning to enable Fire Officers to assist all residents in the Housing Unit;
- (4) whether fire extinguisher and fire blanket training was provided and if these items were available to purchase and the Group Manager advised that training on these issues could be provided and smoke alarms could be provided, however, they did not supply blankets and extinguishers for purchasing;
- (5) why numbers of casualties from non-fire emergencies were so high in Maybole, North Carrick and Coylton and the Group Manager advised that this was due to the number of accidents on the A77;
- (6) if there were many false call-outs and the Group Manager advised that this number had fallen recently as more visits to schools were undertaken to explain to children the consequences of making false calls;
- (7) whether Fire Officers were subject to attacks and the Group Manager advised that this had also been reduced due to liaison with schools and youth groups and community engagement;
- (8) whether more training could be provided to young people on the danger of bonfires and the Group Manager advised that the Local Area Liaison Officer had undertaken training at schools highlighting the dangers of secondary fires which was an external fire such as a bin fire or bush fire and encouraging people to attend organised events only;

- (9) why the number of automatic fire alarm signal call-outs was so high in Maybole, North Carrick and Coylton and the Group Manager advised that this was due to the hospital, various educational establishments and factories in this area; and
- (10) whether Fire Officers had undertaken special training in light of terrorist attacks and the Group Manager advised that Fire Officers received regular, ongoing training in conjunction with Police Officers and Paramedics.

The Chair, on behalf of the Panel thanked Group Manager Kenneth Hankinson for his update.

The Panel

**Decided:** following scrutiny, to note the position in relation to the performance of Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

**Having previously declared an interest in the following item, Councillor Galbraith left the table and did not participate in consideration of this item.**

**Similarly, having previously declared an interest in this item, Councillor Hampton left the room and Councillor Goldie then took the Chair.**

## **5. Ayr Gaiety Partnership (AGP) Performance Report.**

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 16th November 2015 by the Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment outlining the work of the AGP and the wider impact this had on arts, cultural and economic development in South Ayrshire and Jeremy Wyatt, Chief Executive of Ayr Gaiety Partnership then gave a presentation to the Panel on the work of the AGP covering such matters as its goals, productions, festivals, partnerships, funding, attendance, employment, training, consumer ranking and economic impact of the AGP.

Questions were raised by Panel Members in relation to:-

- (1) the likelihood of an event being staged by the Gaiety production company in other towns and the Chief Executive of the Partnership advised that a children's show was being staged in Maybole in December and, should this prove successful, further shows could then be staged in other towns;
- (2) funding arrangements during the refurbishment of the Gaiety and the Chief Executive of the Partnership advised that the spring programme was currently being published and this would include over 30 shows taking place in the Ayr Town Hall which would provide income and that the Stage Door Restaurant and studio would still be open and that he was confident that ticket sales would be high when the theatre reopened due to increased interest in the refurbishment; and
- (3) whether an incentive scheme had been considered to encourage patrons to attend more shows and the Chief Executive of the Partnership advised that a loyalty scheme was currently being piloted and that it was hoped it would be fully established for the theatre reopening after the refurbishment.

Councillor Goldie, on behalf of the Panel thanked Mr. Wyatt for his interesting and informative presentation and the Panel

**Decided:** following scrutiny, to note the position regarding Ayr Gaiety Partnership.

**Chair.**

**Councillor Hampton resumed the Chair.**

**Councillor Galbraith rejoined the meeting at this point.**

## **6. Correspondence Relating to Police Services.**

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 10th November 2015 by the Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment advising of the three pieces of correspondence received from Police Scotland, namely:-

- (1) a Police Scotland update on their Armed Patrol Policy from Chief Superintendent Gillian MacDonald to the Chief Executive on 5th October 2015, attached as an Appendix to the report;
- (2) the draft Gaelic Language plans published by Scottish Police Authority and Police Scotland on 15th October for 12 weeks; and
- (3) the report published by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland on 10th November 2015 on the review of Police call handling,

and inviting the Panel to scrutinise these reports.

The Head of Communities advised that a further piece of correspondence had recently been received from the Scottish Police Authority regarding a review of governance in terms of policing which she would submit to Panel Members for their comments and that she would agree a response with the Chair incorporating any comments from Panel Members and submit this, on behalf of the Panel, prior to the close of consultation on 16th December 2015.

Questions were raised by Panel Members regarding Police attendance at this Panel and the Head of Communities outlined that the Panel had previously agreed that officers of Police Scotland should attend this Panel bi-annually only, to update the Panel on and answer questions about their performance report and that it was not a good use of Police resources to have an Officer in attendance at every meeting of this Panel.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Head of Communities should liaise with Police Scotland regarding a Police Officer meeting with the four members for the Maybole, North Carrick and Coylton Ward and the three Members of the Kyle Ward to update them on the situation within their wards as they had not met with an Officer of Police Scotland for some time.

The Panel

**Decided:** to note the correspondence received relating to Police services.

The meeting ended at 11.40 a.m.