

PARTNERSHIPS PANEL.

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,
on 13th September 2016 at 10.00 a.m.

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

Apology: Councillor Sandra Goldie.

Attending: L. Bloomer, Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment; C. Monaghan, Head of Communities; D. Gillies, Head of Property and Risk; W. Carlaw, Democratic and Governance Manager; T. Burns, Asset Manager; L. Sands, Committee Services Officer; D. Bell, Managing Director, Ayr Renaissance LLP; and J. Scott, Local Senior Officer for Ayrshire, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

1. Declarations of Interest.

The Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment declared an interest in Item 9 of this minute entitled “Progress Against Plan – Ayr Renaissance LLP” as she was a member of the Ayr Renaissance LLP Board, however, as she did not perceive there was a conflict of interest, she would not leave the room when the item was being considered and would take part in discussion of this item.

2. Minutes of previous meeting.

The minutes of [7th June 2016](#) and [16th June 2016](#) (Special) (issued) were submitted and approved.

3. Action Plan and Work Programme.

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

A member of the Panel made reference to Action Point 1 of the Action Log enquiring as to when Police Scotland would be meeting with Elected Members and the Head of Communities advised that the new Chief Inspector was actively looking to have introductory meetings with all ward members and was aware of the issues raised by Elected Members in relation to having regular updates provided by Police Scotland.

The Panel

Decided: to note the Action Log and Work Programme.

4. 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.

5. Fire Performance Report.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 7th September 2016 by the Head of Communities inviting Panel Members to scrutinise the local performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service from 1st April to 31st July 2016 and to consider additional service update information provided by the Local Senior Officer.

Jim Scott, Local Senior Officer for Ayrshire, Scottish Fire and Rescue outlined the process for developing the new Local Plan for Fire and Rescue; and highlighted key areas within the report and questions were raised by Panel Members in relation to:- the reason for reduction in accidental dwelling fires in South Ayrshire compared to the increase in the other Ayrshire authorities; the number of false calls received and if there were any indication that these came from a specific area; if the reason for the reduction in fire casualties and fire fatalities was due to the fire service's education programme; and how challenging it was to identify false alarm calls. The Local Senior Officer for Ayrshire, Scottish Fire and Rescue, responded accordingly.

A suggestion was raised in relation to officers from the fire service attending community council meetings and a discussion followed on whether there was a need for this. It was agreed that the Head of Communities would write to the Link Officers of the Community Councils advising that if there were any fire issues raised at Community Council meetings these would be picked up with fire officers who would then arrange to attend a Community Council meeting, if appropriate.

The Chair, on behalf of the Panel, congratulated Mr. Scott on this report and the Panel

Decided:

- (1) to note the update information provided by the Area Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service;
- (2) to note the contents of the performance report for the period 1st April to 31st July 2016;
- (3) to request that the Head of Communities write to the Link Officers of Community Councils advising that any fire issues raised at Community Council meetings should be picked up with fire officers who would then arrange to attend a Community Council meeting, if appropriate; and
- (4) that the next Local Plan should be drafted for consultation for after the Local Government Elections in May 2017.

6. Performance Review of Common Good Funds.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 24th August 2016 by the Head of Property and Risk updating the Panel on the performance of Common Good Funds administered by this Council.

The Head of Property and Risk outlined the typographical error on page three of the report regarding the reserve balances of the Prestwick Common Good Fund eventually being exhausted as the fund ran at a deficit, which should have read, "£5,000 per annum" and not "£5 per annum".

Questions were raised by Panel Members and responses provided by the Head of Property and Risk and the Asset Manager and a full discussion took place in relation to: ongoing costs in maintaining historical buildings within the Ayr and Prestwick Common

Good Funds; the financial costs of repairs to Ayr Town Hall; and the limited balance of the Prestwick Common Good Fund.

The Panel

Decided: following scrutiny of the governance and asset management arrangements under which all Common Good Funds operated, to note the contents of the report.

7. Consultation on the Draft Strategic Police Priorities for Scotland.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 7th September 2016 by the Head of Communities inviting Panel Members to consider the Draft Strategic Police Priorities for Scotland and highlighting any feedback points on the draft priorities.

A question was raised by a Panel Member in relation to a Community Policing Plan being introduced in South Ayrshire, similar to the one in North Ayrshire, and the Head of Communities advised that she would ensure that the Divisional Commander was made aware of this suggestion and that the Police were currently preparing for South Ayrshire involvement around localities.

A full discussion took place after concerns were raised in relation to the need for early intervention by Police Scotland regarding the reporting of crimes and it was agreed that it would be appropriate for early intervention to be emphasised within the proposed national strategic priorities.

The Panel

Decided: following scrutiny of the Draft Strategic Police Priorities for Scotland, to request that a focus on early intervention be added to the proposed strategic national priorities.

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 during consideration of the remaining item of business 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.

There was submitted a report (issued to members only) of 13th September 2016 by the Head of Communities inviting Panel Members to scrutinise progress against the Ayr Renaissance LLP Business Plan as approved at Council on 3rd March 2016 and against the previous report to Partnerships Panel of 9th February 2016.

Having heard the Managing Director, Ayr Renaissance, advise on the progress made since the last report on Ayr Renaissance was considered by this Panel, and following questions from Panel Members which the Managing Director responded to, Panel Members congratulated the Managing Director, Ayr Renaissance, on this report and the Panel

Decided: following scrutiny of the report, to note the progress against the Ayr Renaissance LLP Business Plan, as set out in Appendix A to the report.

The meeting ended at 11.50 a.m.