

PARTNERSHIPS PANEL.

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,
on 9th February 2016 at 10.00 a.m.

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

Attending: Lesley Bloomer, Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment; Claire Monaghan, Head of Communities; Wynne Carlaw, Democratic and Governance Manager; David Strang, Manager (Schools and Service Support); Valerie Stewart, Community Planning Co-ordinator; Janice McClure, Committee Services Lead Officer; Valerie Davidson, Assistant Chief Executive and Bruce Kiloh, Head of Policy and Planning, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT); and David Bell, Managing Director and Patrick Dunne, Project Executive, Ayr Renaissance.

1. 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.

2. Minutes of previous meeting.

The [minutes](#) of 24th November 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 that reports on 'Ayrshire and Arran Tourism Team' and 'Scrutiny of one External Funding Organisation Receiving Council Funding in Excess of £50,000' scheduled to be considered at this meeting would now be on the agenda for the meeting of 19th April 2016.

The Panel

Decided: to note the Action Log and Work Programme.

4. Correspondence Relating to Police Services.

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 1st February 2016 by the Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment advising of the four pieces of correspondence received from Police Scotland, namely:-

- (1) Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) had written to the Council on 8th January 2016 setting out their Scrutiny Plan for 2016/17 and inviting any comments by 12th February 2016, attached as [Appendices 1](#) and [2](#) to the report;

- (2) the Divisional Commander, Chief Superintendent Gillian MacDonald had written to all Elected Members in South Ayrshire for their information on 12th January 2016 advising that there would be a National Air Weapons Surrender Campaign from 23rd May to 12th June 2016, attached as [Appendix 3](#) to the report;
- (3) the Divisional Commander, Chief Superintendent Gillian MacDonald had written to all Elected Members in South Ayrshire on 12th January 2016 in relation to the draft Police Scotland Action Plan for 2016/17, attached as [Appendices 4](#) and [4a](#); and
- (4) the Divisional Commander, Chief Superintendent Gillian MacDonald had written to the Chair of this Panel, the Chair of the Community Planning Board and the Chief Executive on 1st February 2016 setting out arrangements for the Police Scotland Recorded Police Warning Scheme (RPW), attached as [Appendix 5](#) to the report,

and inviting the Panel to consider these pieces of correspondence.

The Panel then discussed the correspondence received from Police Scotland and following questions on the legislation regarding air weapons,

Decided:

- (1) to request that the Head of Communities write to HMICS advising that this authority endorsed the Scrutiny Plan for 2016/17; and
- (3) otherwise to note the correspondence received relating to Police services.

5. Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) Performance Report.

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 2nd February 2016 detailing the work of SPT and the impact its service had on the public transport network in South Ayrshire and across the West of Scotland and providing the opportunity to identify any areas for further discussion or development of partnership activity.

Valerie Davidson, Assistant Chief Executive and Bruce Kiloh, Head of Policy and Planning outlined the remit of SPT and its core services.

Questions were raised by Panel Members in relation to:-

- (1) the A70 Ayr to Coylton cycle lane and whether it would be continuing to Cumnock and the Head of Policy and Planning, SPT advised that this work was currently being assessed and he would investigate this matter and respond to the Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment in due course to allow her to respond to Panel Members accordingly;
- (2) the withdrawal of certain rural bus routes and whether there was scope to produce a new Ayrshire Travel Plan and the Head of Policy and Planning, SPT advised that the Network Planning Team was constantly monitoring the roads network, however, bus companies operated to maximise profits and should a service not prove profitable, it could be withdrawn. He further advised that Ayr and Prestwick were one of the first areas to have a Statutory Quality Partnership Scheme which would provide an opportunity to review the Travel Plan and that he would examine this with Transport colleagues;

- (3) whether there were plans to re-site or to make improvements at Ayr Bus Station and the Head of Policy and Planning, SPT advised that this was owned by a private operator and that whilst SPT had a close working relationship with the owners this would be a matter for them.
- (4) the breakdown of costs of the improvements to the Ayrshire College/University of the West of Scotland bus facility and the Assistant Chief Executive, SPT advised that this had been a capital investment proposal from the Ayrshire Roads Alliance and that she would obtain further information on this and submit it to the Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment to allow her to issue this to Panel Members;
- (5) problems experienced with the infrequency of the bus service at Loans and Dundonald; and the Ayr to Crosshouse Hospitals bus service being withdrawn as most of the users had a concessionary bus ticket and this route was not financially viable to operate; and the Assistant Chief Executive, SPT advised that these were commercial services. She further advised that often bus companies would request that SPT fund routes which then became too expensive to maintain and, therefore, then required to be withdrawn;
- (6) congestion reduction measures and whether funding could be utilised for the Loans bus service and the Head of Policy and Planning, SPT advised that the Network Planning Team monitored journeys and Compliance Officers were “on the ground” monitoring buses and routes, however, he could examine this and submit any information to the Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment for submission to the Panel Members;
- (7) whether safety checks were carried out on school buses and the Assistant Chief Executive advised that compliance checks were undertaken against each local authority’s standards, however, should there be a particular concern, the school team should be made aware of this and they would carry out a safety check;
- (8) whether SPT officers were receiving adequate information timeously from this authority to allow them to make transport plans, especially with the formation of the new Ayr Academy and the Assistant Chief Executive, SPT advised that relationships between her officers and officers of this authority worked well and that there was an Education Liaison Group where Education Officers and officers of SPT met to discuss decants and dates for school transport; and the Manager (Schools and Support) further advised that he was monitoring the progression of the new build of Ayr Academy and had been in close contact with SPT officers to update them;
- (9) the news that rail passengers had increased by 7% in England and whether there had also been an increase in South Ayrshire and Scotland as a whole and the Head of Policy and Planning, SPT advised that he would obtain this information and forward this to the Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment for submission to Panel Members. He further advised that he was aware that there had been a decline in the number of bus passengers in the West of Scotland and across the country as a whole and that SPT was working with the Government and bus companies on this matter; and that SPT was also working with Network Rail regarding encouraging the use of park and ride facilities and smart cards to encourage use on rail, buses and subway; and

- (10) whether the proposals for a park and ride in Monkton for travelling to Ayr, Troon and Prestwick would be revived and the Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment advised that problems had existed with the purchase of the land for this and the proposal could not progress.

The Chair, on behalf of the Panel, thanked the SPT Officers for the information provided and the Panel noted the SPT Performance Report.

6. South Ayrshire Single Outcome Agreement Annual Report 2014/15.

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 1st February 2016 by the Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment inviting Panel Members to scrutinise the draft South Ayrshire Single Outcome Agreement Annual Report for 2014/15.

Questions were raised by Panel Members in relation to:-

- (1) activities for adults and older people and whether there were walking clubs in South Ayrshire and the Head of Communities advised that various walking groups existed in South Ayrshire and the Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment further advised that an Officer within Planning had responsibility for the Core Paths network and that included communicating with local landowners to ensure there was access for walkers/cyclists to public routes through their land;
- (2) the function of the Prevention and Early Intervention Working Group and Executive Group and the Head of Communities advised of the new governance arrangements for Community Planning and outlined the functions of the Working Group and Executive Group;
- (3) the condition of the road between St. Quivox and Ayr with overgrown bushes and trees resulting in pedestrians walking on the road and the Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment advised that she would raise this matter with Ayrshire Roads Alliance;
- (4) the relevance of the figures as many of the statistics were from 2012 and 2013 and the Head of Communities advised that it proved challenging obtaining up-to-date, accurate data and this was the most up-to-date data available, however, this matter had been raised with the Community Planning Executive; and
- (5) the plans for tackling obesity in primary school children and the Community Planning Co-ordinator advised that the Health Board had a Healthy Weight Strategy Working Group which officers of this authority also attended and that she would forward a copy of the Action Plan to all Panel Members.

The Chair, on behalf of the Panel, congratulated the Officers on this report and the Panel

Decided: following scrutiny, to note the report and to request that the Head of Communities submit the Panel's comments to the Community Planning Board of 1st March 2016.

7. **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 to approve the Ayr Renaissance Business Plan for the period 2015/18 as set out in the report and there was submitted a report (issued to members only) of February 2016 by the Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment inviting the Panel to consider progress against the Ayr Renaissance LLP Business Plan.

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, the Panel

Decided: following scrutiny, to note the contents of the report.

The meeting ended at 11.40 a.m.