

SERVICE AND PERFORMANCE PANEL.

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,
on 23rd February 2016 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Kirsty Darwent (Chair), Andy Campbell, Peter Convery, Hugh Hunter, Mary Kilpatrick, Nan McFarlane, Brian McGinley and John Wallace.

Attending: D. Hutchison, Director of Educational Services; L. Bloomer, Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment; M. Baker, Head of Policy and Performance; W. Carlaw, Democratic and Governance Manager; C. Gardner, Senior Strategic Planning and Performance Officer; A. Mackenzie, External Auditor; and A. Gibson, Committee Services Officer.

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 26th January 2016 ([issued](#)) were submitted and approved.

3. Matters arising.

With reference to the Minutes of 26th January 2016 (Page 3, paragraph 6) entitled "Service Review of Grants" and following a question from a Member of the Panel regarding what difference the appointment of an external funding Officer would have on the community, the Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment responded.

Decided:

- (1) to note that the effectiveness of the external funding officer would be reported through the Service and Improvement Plan; and
- (2) to agree that the Head of Communities provide a verbal report to the next meeting of this Panel, scheduled to take place on 22nd March 2016, on the role and expectations of the new post.

4. Action Log and Work Programme.

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

Decided: with regard to:-

- (1) the Action Log, to note various updates; and
- (2) the Work Programme, to note the current position.

5. Local Government Benchmarking Framework 2014/15.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 16th February 2016 by the Head of Policy and Performance

- (1) updating the Panel on the publication of the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) data for 2014/15; and
- (2) detailing the data in relation to the eight service areas that fell within the remit of this Panel.

The Head of Policy and Performance gave a brief introduction to the report and it was noted that in extracting the Council's performance by quartile, it was revealed that 24 (59%) of the 41 measures within Appendix 1 to the report were now in the top two quartiles ie performing better than the Scottish average.

The Panels observations are set out below:-

Educational Services.

SO1.3.04 LGBF – Percentage of school leavers going into positive and sustained destinations (Initial survey):-

The Panel agreed that that the improvement achieved through targeting those at risk of not moving into positive destinations was excellent.

SO2.1 05 LGBF Cost per primary school pupil:-

After it was noted that South Ayrshire provided cost effective nursery provision, the Director of Educational Services reported that although the costs were low at present due to the nurseries operating at capacity, if the Scottish Government were to increase entitlement to 1100 hours, there would be a problem in meeting that requirement within Prestwick and Troon.

SO2.2 11 LGBF Cost per primary school pupil:-

In response to a question from a Member of the Panel, it was noted that the cost per primary school pupil was higher in South Ayrshire in comparison to other local Authority areas due to the fact that rural schools were more costly to operate than those in urban areas.

SO2.3 05 LGBF Percentage of pupils in 20% most deprived areas getting 5+ awards at level 6:-

The Panel were pleased to note the improvement in this area but recognised more work required to be undertaken in this key area. The Panel further conveyed their appreciation to the Director of Educational Services and his team for their work to date.

Enterprise, Development and Leisure.

SO1.5 01 LGBF Cost per museum visit:-

After a Member of the Panel raised the issue of South Ayrshire having a much higher value than the Scottish average, it was noted that this was partly due to a one-off payment to the Ayr Gaiety Partnership and other exceptional one-off costs last year.

SO4.5 05 LGBF Cost per attendance at sports facilities:-

The Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment reported the actions that were being undertaken to improve this measure and the apparent “uneven playing field” that existed in calculating this measure, in comparison with other Authorities.

Following a question from a Member of the Panel as to how other Council’s fund Leisure Trusts, it was

- (a) noted that the Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment would provide a report to Council on this matter by June 2016; and
- (b) agreed that the National Benchmarking Overview Report would be e-mailed to Members to assist them and would be provided again to Members when further Benchmarking reports were considered by this Panel.

Housing and Facilities:-

The Panel agreed that there had been excellent performance in this area and that congratulations be conveyed to the Team.

Neighbourhood Services:-

The Panel agreed that this was a well managed Service.

SO4.2 13 LGBF Cost of trading standards per 1,000 population:-

The Panel noted that this Team was working well and work was ongoing at a national level with regard to the future of such services.

SO5.4 02 LGBF Street Cleanliness Index – Percentage Clean:-

A Member of the Panel praised the Service for achieving a score of 97% for this indicator. The Panel noted that public’s perception of the Service did not match this score but this may be due to adverse coverage in the local press.

SO5.4 04 LGBF Percentage of adults satisfied with street cleaning (Scottish Household Survey):-

The Panel acknowledged that this Service performed well.

SO5.5.03 LGBF Net waste collection per premises:-

Having heard the Executive Director - Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment, the Panel noted that this Service performed above the Scottish average in terms of recycling, but that further options to improve the recycling of food waste were under consideration.

Employee and Customer Services:-SO6.4 02 LGBF Average days per employee lost through sickness for teachers:-

The Head of Policy and Performance advised that a lot of work had gone into getting a Management of Absence Policy in place and to provide support to Managers.

The Director of Educational Services advised that in relation to the absence figures for this particular period for teachers, there was insufficient detail to allow a full analysis. However, he noted that the position in this regard was improving. The Panel requested that at future meetings of this Panel, more detailed absence data be made available to allow more meaningful scrutiny.

Following a question from a Member of the Panel, it was clarified that the absence statistics focus purely on sickness absence.

SO6.4 03 LGBF Average days per employee lost through sickness for other employees:-

The Panel agreed that there was still room for improvement in this area.

Property and Risk:-SO6.1 01 LGBF Proportion of internal floor area of operational buildings in satisfactory condition:-

The Panel noted that significant progress would be made over the next two years with the agreed new school builds and that the long term improvement trend would be further enhanced by the proposed new arrangements for office accommodation within Ayr.

Decided: to agree the actions as detailed above.

The meeting ended at 11.55 a.m.