

PARTNERSHIPS PANEL.

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,
on 12 February 2020 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Arthur Spurling (Chair), Siobhian Brown, Ian Cavana and Ian Davis.

Apologies: Councillors Hugh Hunter and Chris Cullen.

Attending: D. Gillies, Director – Place; W. Carlaw, Service Lead - Democratic Governance;
C. Monaghan, Service Lead – Community Services and Facilities; and E. Wyllie,
Committee Services Officer.

Also

Attending: Jeremy Wyatt, Chief Executive, Ayr Gaiety Theatre.

1. Declarations of Interest.

In terms of Council Standing Order No. 17 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct, Councillor Brown declared an interest in item 4 of this Minute entitled 'Ayr Gaiety Performance Report' as she was a Director of the Ayr Gaiety Partnership Board and advised that, as she did not perceive there was a conflict of interest, she would remain in the room when this item was being considered.

2. Minutes of previous meeting.

The minutes of 20 November 2019 ([issued](#)) were submitted and approved.

3. Action Log and Work Programme.

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

Having heard the Director – Place comment that there were no outstanding actions and that the work programme was currently up to date, the Panel

Decided: to note the action log and work programme.

4. Ayr Gaiety Performance Report.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 3 February 2020 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director – People inviting members to scrutinise the performance of the Ayr Gaiety Partnership in delivering the activities required as part of the agreement for Council funding.

The Service Lead – Community Services and Facilities introduced the report and outlined the financial support provided by the Council and how activities were mapped against the Council's strategic objectives.

Thereon, the Chair introduced and welcomed Jeremy Wyatt, Gaiety Chief Executive to the meeting. The Gaiety Chief Executive then proceeded to give a presentation outlining the range of activities delivered by Ayr Gaiety Partnership as part of the agreement for Council funding. He also highlighted key achievements for 2019/20 as detailed within the Annual Report attached as Appendix 1 of the report.

Various questions were asked by Members of the Panel and responses provided as follows:-

- (1) in relation to whether financial or other types of support was provided by the UWS, Mr Wyatt explained that there was no financial support from UWS, however, he commented on the potential for further collaboration with UWS;
- (2) in terms of providing events out with the South Ayrshire Council area, Mr Wyatt explained that a programme of events was delivered via funding from Ayrshire LEADER;
- (3) in respect of the action taken over an unsuccessful show, Mr Wyatt responded that this depended on whether the performance was by a local amateur group and, in which case, the Theatre would work with that group to enhance performance. If the event was undertaken by a visiting company then an assessment was taken as to whether there were quality issues with the performance or issues with seat sales. He added that the Theatre would not book the company again if it provided poor quality. However, if it was around seat sales, then a judgement would be made as to whether that could be improved upon and the company booked at another time, although since funding from Creative Scotland had ceased in recent years, in general, the Theatre had a focus on seat sales;
- (4) in terms of the availability of funding from Creative Scotland, Mr Wyatt commented on future funding opportunities and the work involved in bid preparation which could be difficult to undertake due to capacity issues. However, he added that they hoped to submit bids for creative learning and rural touring activities in due course. In the longer term, as a result of delays within Creative Scotland's reorganisation, a bid could be developed for submission this time next year requesting core funding for 2022; and
- (5) in relation to the condition of the fabric of the building, Mr Wyatt advised that the building was in a reasonable state of repair following the refurbishment works previously carried out by the Council. It was noted that there was also a maintenance plan in place. He further added that funding had been granted for costings to be undertaken for outside building works which would return the façade to its 1938 art deco form. Once these costs were obtained, then a bid would be submitted for the actual work to be carried out potentially in two years' time.

The Panel, having scrutinised the performance of Ayr Gaiety Partnership and having thanked Mr Wyatt for his presentation and update

Decided: to note the range of activities delivered as part of the agreement for Council funding.

The meeting ended at 10.30 a.m.