

PARTNERSHIPS PANEL

Minutes of the Meeting held remotely on
16 June 2021 at 10.00am

Present: Councillors Hugh Hunter (Chair), Siobhian Brown, Douglas Campbell, Ian Cavana, and Ian Davis.

Apology: Councillor Arthur Spurling

Attending: D Gillies, Director – Place; W Carlaw, Service Lead – Democratic Governance; Chief Superintendent Faroque Hussain, Police Scotland; Chief Inspector B Anderson, Chief Inspector D Johnstone, Sergeant C Walker, Police Scotland; I McMeekin, Area Manager, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue; K Braidwood, Interim Head, Ayrshire Roads Alliance and A Nelson, Democratic Support.

Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed Councillor Brown to the meeting, took the sederunt and confirmed that today's meeting was not open to the press and public, which was permissible under the COVID-19 legislation. He also confirmed to Members the procedures to be followed for the meeting.

1. Declaration 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 the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on the 21 April 2021 ([issued](#)) were submitted and approved.

3. Action Log and Work Programme

There was submitted an Action Log and Work Programme ([issued](#)) for this Panel. The Director – Place gave a verbal update on the Action Log and,

The Panel

Decided: to note the Action Log and Work Programme including the verbal updated provided by the Director – Place.

4. Ayrshire Roads Alliance Service Plan 2021/22 and Performance Report 2020/21

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) dated 8 June 2021 by the Director – Place presenting the Ayrshire Roads Alliance Service Plan for 2021/22 and the Performance Report for 2020/21.

The Interim Head of Ayrshire Roads Alliance provided the Panel with a detailed briefing on the Ayrshire Roads Alliance Service Plan for 2021/22 and the Performance Report for 2020/21.

After discussion various questions were asked by Members of the Panel and responses provided as follows: -

- (1) The Interim Head had highlighted the issues of a shortage of supplies and a Member enquired if prices had increased as a result of this, the Interim Head advised that this primarily related to pre-cast concrete and to date there had not been a price increase.
- (2) A Member referred to page 13 of the Service Plan for 2021-22 and commented on the level of funding East Ayrshire Council had received from Strathclyde Partnership for Transport compared to South Ayrshire Council, the Interim Head advised that the increased level of funding that East Ayrshire Council had received was due to the refurbishment work being carried out at Kilmarnock and Cumnock Bus Stations.
- (3) One Member made reference to page 24, point 4 and asked how feasible it had been to undertake pro-active maintenance work during the Covid-19 pandemic, the Interim Head advised that this had been challenging however due to a relaxation in restrictions this work would re-commence.
- (4) A Member commented on the fact that South Ayrshire appeared to be behind the national APSE average with regard to the condition of roads within the area and enquired if there was a specific reason for this. The Interim Head advised that this was due to the level of investment in the network.
- (5) The Chair commended the fact that an increased number of local villages had now enforced a 20mph speed limit and asked how this would be enforced, The Interim Head advised that it was anticipated that the signage and road-markings would be sufficient to reduce speed but this matter would now be monitored by Police Scotland.

The Chair thanked the Interim Head, Ayrshire Road Alliance for the detailed and comprehensive report and the Panel, having considered the Ayrshire Roads Alliance Service Plan for 2021/22 and Performance Report 2020/21

Decided:

1. To note that regular updates were provided to the Ayrshire Shared Services Joint Committee;
2. To note the performance scorecard for 2020/21 ([Appendix 2](#)); and
3. To note the remainder of the report.

4. Local Performance Report: Police Scotland

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) dated 8 June 2021 by the Assistant Director – People providing Panel Members with information about the year end performance of Police Scotland in South Ayrshire.

Chief Superintendent Hussain, accompanied by Chief Inspector Anderson, provided Members with a very full and informative briefing on the Local Performance Report and highlighted the key areas:- drug dealing and misuse; violence, disorder and antisocial behaviour; dishonesty; road safety and protecting people at risk of harm. Chief

Superintendent Hussain also updated Members on the plans for the COP26 Conference being held in Glasgow in November of this year.

After a full discussion on the report Panel Members raised the following issues:

- (1) One member was disappointed to note that the number of disorder complaints had risen by 44.1%, Chief Superintendent Hussain advised that this had been directly impacted upon as a result of the pandemic. The closure of leisure facilities, schools and public recreational facilities had also attributed to this.
- (2) Chief Superintendent Hussain had updated Members on plans for the COP26 Conference being held in Glasgow in November and a Member asked if this would impact on service delivery within the local area. Chief Superintendent assured Members that it would not and that local plans would be in place to maintain service delivery.
- (3) A Member enquired if Police Scotland were enforcing and monitoring the number of police officers that had been vaccinated against Covid-19. Superintendent Hussain advised that Police Scotland were not monitoring this and advised that Police Scotland were promoting a policy of encouragement rather than enforcement.
- (4) One Member highlighted page 4 of the report and noted that fraud had increased by 119%. Chief Superintendent Hussain intimated that this was not just an area of concern within South Ayrshire but also across the country as more people were receiving fraudulent text messages and emails .
- (5) A Member noted that there had been an increase in the number of road fatalities since 2019/20 as detailed on page 9 of the report and enquired if there was any 'hot spots' in the area. Chief Superintendent Hussain advised that Police Scotland worked closely with Ayrshire Roads Alliance and if a 'hot spot' was identified they would put measures in place to mitigate the risk.

Chief Inspector Johnstone updated the Panel on the revised Complaints Model that came into effect on 1 May 2021; public engagement and the consultation currently underway on armed police officers wearing body cameras.

Finally, one Member commended the work that Campus Police Officers were doing within secondary school and their feeder primary schools and wished this placed on record.

The Chair thanked Chief Superintendent Hussain, Chief Inspector Brian Anderson and Chief Inspector Derrick Johnstone for their informative contribution to the Panel and having scrutinised the year-end Local Performance Report: Police Scotland, the Panel

Decided: to note the content of the report.

5. Local Performance Report – Scottish Fire and Rescue

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) dated 8 June 2021 by the Assistant Director – People advising Members of the Panel as to the progress made against South Ayrshire's Local Fire and Rescue Plan priorities, and provided the Panel with an update on key fire and rescue service delivery matters.

Ian McMeekin, Area Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue provided the Panel with an in-depth overview of the year-end Local Performance Report: Scottish Fire and Rescue. He updated Members on the new Strategic Plan for the period 2019/22 and Fire and Rescue Service Framework for Scotland; the asymptomatic testing programme and the continued support the Service was inputting into local communities.

After discussion, Members asked the following questions: -

- (1) Members raised concern about the figures relating to deliberate fire setting and after general discussion the Area Manager advised that data was collated relating to:- the location; time; and days of the week and that this data would underpin preventative work going forward. He further advised that the Service worked closely with their Ward Managers and partners i.e. Police Scotland, Community Learning and Development and Campus Officers to engage and build relationships to tackle these issues.
- (2) A Member enquired if the vaccine programme was being enforced within the workforce, the Area Manager advised that this was not something that could be enforced within their Terms and Conditions but was certainly encouraged as was asymptomatic testing.
- (3) The Area Manager forwarded an invitation to the Panel to join him for a tour of the local Fire Station once Covid-19 restrictions had eased.
- (4) One member, having witnessed the Fire and Rescue Service in action recently, wanted to commend their skills and expertise and how well they worked with Police Scotland colleagues in dealing with the incident.

The Chair thanked Ian McMeekin, Area Manager for his detailed overview of the report and having scrutinised the year-end Local Performance Report: Scottish Fire and Rescue

Decided: to note the contents of the report.

The time being 11:54 Councillor Brown left the meeting.

6. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Partnerships Panel was scheduled to take place on 15 September 2021 at 10am.

The meeting finished at 12.09