

LEADERSHIP PANEL.

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr
on 14th June 2016 at 9.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Bill McIntosh (Chair), Bill Grant, John McDowall, Rita Miller, Robin Reid, Philip Saxton and Margaret Toner.

Attending: E. Howat, Chief Executive; V. Andrews, Executive Director – Resources, Governance and Organisation; L. Bloomer, Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment; D. Hutchison, Director of Educational Services; R. Riddiough, Head of Legal and Democratic Services; D. Gillies, Head of Property and Risk; M. Baker, Head of Policy and Performance; C. Monaghan, Head of Communities; A. Valenti, Quality Improvement Manager (Early Years); H. Anderson, Manager (Housing Policy and Strategy) and A. Gibson, Committee Services Officer.

Also Attending: Pastor Ian Gall and Mr Tom Robinson (for items 4 and 5 only).

Apologies: Miss Phil Davey and Rev. David Gemmell.

1. Declaration of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest by Members of the Panel in terms of Council Standing Order No. 17 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

2. Minutes of previous meeting.

The minutes of 24th May 2016 ([issued](#)) were submitted and approved.

3. Decision Log.

Decided: to note the contents of the Decision Log ([issued](#)) and emphasise that it required to be updated regularly as it was an important monitoring and management tool.

Lifelong Learning.

4. Proposed School Holiday Arrangements for 2017/18.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 11th April 2016 by the Director of Educational Services seeking approval of the school holiday arrangements for 2017/18.

The Panel, having welcomed the report

Decided: to approve Option 1 of the school holiday arrangements for 2017/18, as contained in Appendix 1 of the report with the proviso that, if necessary, the 2017 September weekend would automatically be changed to align with the date of the Ayr Gold Cup.

5. Improving and Modernising Early Learning and Childcare.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 27th May 2016 by the Director of Educational Services seeking agreement on the proposed steps for improving access to flexible early learning and childcare in line with the requirements of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and to approve a charging policy where excess early years capacity was available.

The Panel

Decided: to approve the following proposals for early learning and childcare

- (1) to implement Management Guidelines on Charging in early learning and childcare;
- (2) to rename all nursery schools and classes as Early Years Centres;
- (3) to change the job title from nursery nurse to early years practitioner;
- (4) to create Centre Manager posts to replace the vacant head teacher posts at Wallacetown and Girvan Nurseries; and
- (5) to pilot the delivery of 1,140 hours early learning and childcare for session 2016/17.

Housing and Customer Services.

6. Extension of Private Sector Leasing Scheme.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 16th May 2016 by the Head of Housing and Facilities seeking agreement to extend the leases of Private Sector Leasing (PSL) properties beyond five years, as required, to meet the temporary accommodation needs of homeless households.

The Panel, having noted with pleasure that the Council had not placed homeless persons in bed and breakfast facilities since 2015 and that the current policy was a great success

Decided: to agree to extend the leases of current and future PSL properties beyond the original maximum five year duration, on an individual basis as required, to meet the temporary accommodation needs of homeless households.

Corporate, Strategic and Community Planning.

7. Scottish Government Consultation: Community Planning/Community Asset Transfer/Participation Requests/Abandoned Land.

There was submitted a joint report ([issued](#)) of 3rd June 2016 by the Executive Director – Resources, Governance and Organisation and Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment seeking approval to submit responses to the Scottish Government consultations on Community Planning, Community Asset Transfer, Participation Requests and Abandoned Land.

The Panel, having noted that there would be resource implications arising from the legislation and following discussion on community empowerment, links to locality planning, the concept of Abandoned Land and ownership issues, shared leadership and clarification of the proposals for notices,

Decided: to agree that the consultation responses, as outlined in Appendices 1 to 4 of the report, be submitted to the Scottish Government by 17th June 2016 subject to:-

- (1) the removal of the response in the Community Planning consultation which stated that the Council was particularly supportive of the principle of shared leadership of community planning;
- (2) a minor amendment being made to a response to the consultation on Community Asset Transfer; and
- (3) the amended responses to be circulated to all members.

Resources and Performance.

8. Service Review – Legal Services.

With reference to the minutes of the Service and Performance Panel of 31st May 2016 (Page 7, paragraph 8) there was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 3rd June 2016 by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services seeking approval of the findings of the Legal Services Review

The Panel, having discussed the use of time recording by staff

Decided: having considered the summary information contained in [Appendix 1](#) of the report, to approve the findings and recommendations of the Legal Services service review as set out in [Appendix 2](#) of the report.

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9. Transform South Ayrshire.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 3rd June 2016 by the Executive Director – Resources, Governance and Organisation seeking approval for the Council's transformation programme - 'Transform South Ayrshire', including proposed governance arrangements and the creation of a Programme Management Office with a specific project management role to support transformation and project delivery across Council services.

The Panel, having welcomed the report, commented on the need for adequate training provision and having noted that expertise would be built with the creation of a small number of posts in the Programme Management Office

Decided:

- (1) to agree to support the proposals for the Council's 'Transform South Ayrshire' change programme;
- (2) to agree to support the governance and reporting arrangements for the programme as outlined in paragraphs 4.3 to 4.7 of the report and the staffing proposals as outlined in paragraphs 4.13, 4.14, 4.15 and 4.17 of the report; and
- (3) to note that implementation of the proposals would be dependent on adequate resources being made available and to agree to remit the proposals to Council on 30th June 2016 for approval and for agreement of the funding required to deliver the programme as outlined in paragraph 6.4 of the report.

10. 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 items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information in terms of paragraphs 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

11. Contract for Performance Management Software.

There was submitted a report (issued to members only) of 3rd June 2016 by the Executive Director – Resources, Governance and Organisation seeking approval for the Council's transformation programme - 'Transform South Ayrshire', including proposed governance arrangements and the creation of a Programme Management Office with a specific project management role to support transformation and project delivery across Council services.

The Panel, having noted how Covalent had facilitated the work of this Council and that work would be undertaken with managers to assist them with the introduction of this software,

Decided: to approve the renewal of the performance management software contract with Covalent Ltd for five years, at an estimated cost of £73,180 in accordance with Section 23.1 of the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts, and in order to secure discount.

12. Disposal of Land at nether Auchendrane, by Ayr.

There was submitted a report (issued to members only) of 3rd June 2016 seeking consent to sell Council-owned land at Nether Auchendrane, approximately three miles south of Ayr.

The Panel,

Decided: to agree

- (1) to convert the long lease of land extending to 2.18 hectares or thereby to ownership to Mr and Mrs A. Lamont;
- (2) to sell the adjoining land which extended to 0.43 Hectares, which, in addition to the land in 2.1.1, equated to a total of 2.61 hectares or thereby, to Mr and Mrs A. Lamont for £40,000; and
- (3) to grant delegated authority to the Executive Director – Resources, Governance and Organisation to conclude this transaction on these and such other reasonable terms and conditions as were appropriate.

13. **Consideration of Disclosure of the above Confidential Reports.**

Decided:

- (1) not to authorise the disclosure of the whole or part of any documents of the following report falling under Standing Order 31.2 of the Standing Orders relating to Meetings:-
 - Contract for Performance Management Software; and
- (2) to authorise the disclosure of the following report falling under Standing Order 31.2 of the Standing Orders relating to Meetings when the sale had been concluded:-
 - Disposal of Land at Nerther Auchendrane, by Ayr.

The meeting ended at 9.55 a.m.