

LEADERSHIP PANEL.

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr
on 19th January 2016 at 10.00 a.m.

- Present: Councillors John McDowall (Chair), Bill Grant, Rita Miller, Robin Reid, Philip Saxton and Margaret Toner.
- Apology: Councillor Bill McIntosh.
- Attending: E. Howat, Chief Executive; V. Andrews, Executive Director – Resources, Governance and Organisation; L. Bloomer, Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment; T. Baulk, Head of Finance and ICT; J. Cronin, Head of Enterprise, Development and Leisure; D. Burns, Head of Housing and Facilities; K. O'Hagan, Head of Employee and Customer Services; C. Cox, Planning Manager; and A. Gibson, Committee Services Officer.

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 [1st December](#) and [15th December](#) 2015 (Special) (issued) were submitted and approved.

3. Decision Log.

Decided: to note the contents of the Decision Log ([issued](#)).

Economic Development, Tourism and Leisure.

4. Planning Enforcement Charter.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 5th January 2016 by the Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment

- (1) seeking approval of an update to the South Ayrshire Planning Enforcement Charter, as detailed as Appendix1 to the report; and
- (2) advising that the Charter was required to be reviewed and updated biennially under the terms of the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006.

The Planning Manager responded to various concerns including the numbers of planning breaches annually, breaches relating to Tree Preservation Orders and illuminated advertisements, and it was agreed that a response would be provided later in writing as to the number of times replacement planting had been secured where Tree Preservation Orders had been breached, and the Panel

Decided: to approve the updated Planning Enforcement Charter, as detailed in [Appendix 1](#) to the report.

5. **Clyde Marine Planning Partnership.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 6th January 2016 by the Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment

- (1) advising of progress in establishing the Clyde Marine Planning Partnership for the Clyde Marine Region; and
- (2) seeking approval for this Council becoming a member of the new Partnership and being represented on the Board of the new Partnership once it is formed.

Clarification having been provided in relation to the arrangements for the Clyde Plan, links to the fishing industry and the proposed shared Board arrangements with North Ayrshire Council, the Panel

Decided:

- (a) to approve the Council's membership of a new unincorporated association to be called "The Clyde Marine Planning Partnership" (the "Partnership");
- (b) to approve the Council being represented on the board of the Partnership on a shared rotational basis with North Ayrshire Council, subject to the appointment by Council of board members; and
- (c) to delegate to the Executive Director – Resources, Governance and Organisation the negotiation and agreement of the Partnership Agreement relating to the Partnership.

6. **Ayrshire Growth Deal.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 16th December 2015 by the Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment

- (1) seeking approval of the approach taken to the development of the Ayrshire Growth Deal and to approve the proposals for assessing projects for inclusion as part of the Deal; and
- (2) advising that North Ayrshire Council and East Ayrshire Council were considering these proposals at their Cabinet and Executive meetings respectively, to be held on 19th January 2016 (North Ayrshire) and 13th January 2016 (East Ayrshire).

The Panel, having welcomed the report, in particular the proposed resourcing and support for employability elements, and digital infrastructure development,

Decided: to approve

- (a) the approach being taken to the development of the Ayrshire Growth Deal; and
- (b) the proposals for assessing projects for inclusion in the Deal.

Housing and Customer Services.

7. Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation (VPR) Scheme.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 11th January 2016 by the Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment seeking agreement to accommodate and support, over a five year period, in the region of forty-two Syrian Refugees through the Syrian Vulnerable Person Relocation (VPR) Scheme.

The Panel having welcomed this report and having noted the willingness of charitable organisations to help the refugees, and the challenges in relation particularly to language/interpreter services

Decided: to agree to accommodate in the region of 42 Syrian refugees over a five year period.

Resources and Performance.

8. Approvals under Delegated Authority during Period of Recess.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 6th January 2016 by the Executive Director – Resources, Governance and Organisation advising of matters determined under delegated authority during recess.

Decided: to note the matters determined under delegated authority during recess.

9. Audit Scotland Charges – 2015/16 Audit.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 6th January 2016 by the Head of Finance and ICT advising of the proposed external audit fee for 2015/16.

Decided: to agree the proposed fee level for 2015/16 and payment of this fee in three instalments in January, May and September 2016.

10. The Local Government Pensions Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 2015

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 23rd December 2015 by the Head of Employee and Customer Services seeking approval of the revised application of discretionary provisions the Council would apply relating to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) and for the resulting changes to the Council's Employee Retirement Framework.

Decided: to approve the application of discretionary provisions of the Local Government Pension Scheme and the revised Employee Retirement Framework as highlighted in [Appendix 1](#) of the report, subject to an amendment to the report and Appendix 1 to indicate that the Council would reintroduce flexible retirement, but restrict the circumstances in which it would be granted to those where:-

- (1) there was no cost to the Council;
- (2) there were business critical reasons that required the retention of an employee who could otherwise retire; and
- (3) there was a reduction in the employee's working hours of at least 20%.

Economic Development, Tourism and Leisure.

11. Ayrshire and Arran Tourism – Future Delivery of the Ayrshire and Arran Tourism Strategy.

Having noted that this report was no longer confidential and now in the public domain, as its terms had previously been made public by East Ayrshire Council, reference was made to the Minutes of the Ayrshire Shared Services Joint Committee of 11th December 2015 (Page 1, paragraph 3) and there was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 6th January 2016 by the Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment

- (1) seeking approval of the recommendations agreed by that Joint Committee relating to the proposed new approach for the delivery of pan Ayrshire tourism strategy; and
- (2) advising on the budget and service implications for the Council.

Clarification was sought and it was confirmed that consultation on the proposals had been carried out through the Independent consultant's report, including two workshops, and that the pan Ayrshire approach was continuing in relation to networking events, marketing, websites etc. where it was most successful.

The Panel having indicated their regret that the other two Ayrshire Authorities did not share this Council's view on how tourism should be promoted in Ayrshire,

Decided: to agree

- (a) the recommendations of the Ayrshire Shared Services Joint Committee of 11th December 2015, as detailed in [Appendix 1](#) of the report;
- (b) the proposed approach to the delivery of tourism services across Ayrshire and Arran, including the new funding arrangements; the development and delivery of local action plans aligned to the existing regional strategy; the continued development of pan Ayrshire projects where considered most appropriate, including marketing and branding activity, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (c) that officers of this Council as lead authority would work with colleagues in East and North Ayrshire to conclude and implement discussions with staff, Trade Unions and the tourism industry on these proposals;

- (d) to agree 31st March 2016 as the commencement date for the remodelled service and TUPE transfer, and the termination date of the current temporary fixed term contracts; and
- (e) the proposed funding and staffing arrangements for this Council as set out in paragraphs 5.1 and 5.3 of the report.

The meeting ended at 10.55 a.m.