

AYRSHIRE SHARED SERVICES JOINT COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,
on 17th February 2017 at 2.00 p.m.

- Present: Councillors Alec Clark, Peter Convery, John McDowall and Nan McFarlane, South Ayrshire Council; and Councillors Bobby McDill and Maureen McKay, East Ayrshire Council.
- Chair: Councillor John McDowall, South Ayrshire Council.
- Apologies: Councillors Tom Cook and Douglas Reid, East Ayrshire Council; and Councillors Joe Cullinane, Willie Gibson, Alan Hill and Donald Reid, North Ayrshire Council.
- Attending: Lesley Bloomer, Executive Director - Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment, South Ayrshire Council; Eilidh Mackay, Chief Auditor; Dougal Watt, Senior Auditor; and Paul Whip, Group Finance Manager, East Ayrshire Council; Stewart Turner, Head of Roads; and Kevin Braidwood, Operations Manager, Ayrshire Roads Alliance; and Lauren Sands, Committee Services Officer, South Ayrshire Council.

1. Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of the Joint Committee's Order No. 25 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

2. Minutes of previous meeting.

The Minutes of 8th December 2016 (issued) ([link attached](#)) were submitted and approved.

AYRSHIRE ROADS ALLIANCE

3. Roadworks Programme 2016/17.

There was submitted a report (issued) of 23rd January 2017 ([link attached](#)) by the Head of Roads - Ayrshire Roads Alliance, advising the Joint Committee of the progress made with the road improvement programmes within East Ayrshire and South Ayrshire for financial year 2016-2017.

A query was raised as to why Ayrshire Roads Alliance were not using MR6 as one of their materials for road surfacing and the Operations Manager, Ayrshire Roads Alliance, advised that it had not been considered as an option yet, however, Ayrshire Roads Alliance were happy to look at this as an alternative material and report back on their findings to the next meeting of the Joint Committee.

A member of the Joint Committee raised the question why there were a number of programmes within the East Ayrshire Footway Structural Maintenance Programme 2016/17 that had still to be programmed and asked if these would be completed before the end of the financial year. The Operations Manager, Ayrshire Roads Alliance, advised that the reason for this was due to the ongoing Virgin Media work, however, the majority of the works had been completed. It was agreed that the Operations

Manager, Ayrshire Roads Alliance, would provide a breakdown of programmes affected by the Virgin Media work.

Clarification was also sought and provided on; the difference in budget between East Ayrshire and South Ayrshire in relation to LED street lighting; and the benefit of an information bulletin being issued to community councils, similar to the information issued by TranServ, in relation to providing better advertising of road closure times.

Decided:

- (1) to note the Ayrshire Roads Alliance works progress; and
- (2) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

4. Risk Report and Register.

There was submitted a report (issued) of 26th January 2017 ([link attached](#)) by the Head of Roads – Ayrshire Roads Alliance, advising the Joint Committee on the management of risk associated with the Ayrshire Roads Alliance.

A member of the Joint Committee raised questions regarding the road closures that would be in place during the “Tour of Ayrshire Cycling Festival” taking place around Kilmarnock in April due to receiving constituency complaints. The Head of Roads, Ayrshire Roads Alliance, assured Members all necessary steps had been taken to ensure the event ran as smoothly and safely as possible. A discussion then followed on how East Ayrshire could support the promotion of healthy lifestyles in conjunction with the event and it was agreed this would be a positive initiative.

Questions were raised in relation to whether a storage facility for salt in Girvan had been identified and the potential risks of urban roads being inspected on a 6 monthly basis only. The Operations Manager, Ayrshire Roads Alliance, advised that a location had been considered for the storage of salt in Girvan, however, there would be a considerable cost for this and confirmed that high speed roads were inspected on a monthly basis.

Decided:

- (1) to note the revised risk register presented in the report;
- (2) to continue to receive updates on the progress; and
- (3) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

5. Development Control Update – Road Bonds.

There was submitted a report (issued) of 23rd January 2017 ([link attached](#)) by the Head of Roads – Ayrshire Roads Alliance, updating the Joint Committee on the position regarding Road Bonds held by the Ayrshire Roads Alliance on behalf of East Ayrshire Council and South Ayrshire Council.

Clarification was sought and provided on the form bonds took; whether the timescales for bonds were adequate; the process for when a new developer took on a site where a bond had already been called in by a previous developer; the stage that discussions were at in relation to the development at Hill Street, Kilmarnock with a request that the relevant Councillor be updated on the position following further discussions; and the

process of recovering bond money in relation to the development at Arran Avenue, Kilmarnock with a request that the relevant Councillor be updated when the bond money was recovered.

Decided:

- (1) to note the position regarding Road Bonds currently held by the Ayrshire Roads Alliance on behalf of East Ayrshire Council and South Ayrshire Council;
- (2) to request that progress updates be provided to future meetings of the Joint Committee on an annual basis; and
- (3) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

6. Update on Performance Scorecard.

There was submitted a report (issued) of 30th January 2017 ([link attached](#)) by the Head of Roads - Ayrshire Roads Alliance, advising the Joint Committee regarding progress made to date against the Performance Scorecard.

A request was made that the figures shown for years 2014-2016 under the "Roads Considered for Maintenance" section of Appendix 1 of the report be reverted back to the previous layout, which provided the figures in separate columns rather than grouped together, as this layout made it easier to scrutinise the information.

Various safety concerns were raised around the Troon area and the Operations Manager, Ayrshire Roads Alliance, advised that these would be investigated. A Member of the Joint Committee queried if screeding was still to be used in the South Carrick area in South Ayrshire and the Operations Manager, Ayrshire Roads Alliance, confirmed that screeding was best carried out in the spring and summer months and the intention was to carry out screeding during this time.

Decided:

- (1) to note the performance scorecard and performance metrics presented in the report;
- (2) to continue to receive the performance scorecard updates; and
- (3) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor McKay left the meeting at this point.

7. Revenue Financial Monitoring Period.

There was submitted a report (issued) of February 2017 ([link attached](#)) by the Depute Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer Economy and Skills, East Ayrshire Council, updating the Joint Committee on the revenue budget monitoring position for the year to 11th December 2016, for the Ayrshire Roads Alliance.

Decided:

- (1) to note the financial management position of the Ayrshire Roads Alliance;

- (2) to request a further financial update at the next meeting of the Joint Committee; and
- (3) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

8. Exclusion of press and public.

The Joint Committee 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 following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information in terms of paragraph 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

9. Internal Audit Report – Parking Income.

There was submitted a report (issued to members only) of 9th February 2017 by the Chief Auditor, East Ayrshire Council, providing the Joint Committee with the outcome of a planned internal audit assignment on Ayrshire Roads Alliance (ARA) Parking Income.

The Joint Committee heard the Chief Auditor, East Ayrshire Council, outline the process that had been undertaken while carrying out the audit and the reasoning for some of the recommendations made and she advised that in line with established arrangements there would be a follow up report during 2017/18 reflecting the implementation status of recommendations, which would be made available to the Members of the Joint Committee.

A number of issues were raised in relation to the audit findings within the report and the Chief Auditor and Senior Auditor, East Ayrshire Council, responded accordingly. The Head of Roads, Ayrshire Roads Alliance, advised that Ayrshire Roads Alliance aimed to implement all recommendations within the report by April 2017.

Having heard the Chair, on behalf of the Panel, thank the relevant officers for their work on this matter and asking officers to note the comments made, the Joint Committee

Decided:

- (1) after consideration of the findings of the internal audit report regarding Ayrshire Roads Alliance Parking Income, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, to note the contents of the report; and
- (2) to note that the internal audit report attached at Appendix 1 is not a public report.

10. Chair's Remarks.

It was noted that a number of constituency queries had been raised throughout the meeting.

Decided: that, going forward, half an hour would be set aside at the end of the meeting for Members to raise constituency queries with officers.

The meeting ended at 15:47 p.m.