

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE PANEL.

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr
on 21st February 2018 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Peter Convery (Chair), Alec Clark, Brian Connolly, Chris Cullen, Martin Dowey, Hugh Hunter, Helen Moonie and Arthur Spurling.

Attending: V. Andrews, Executive Director – Resources, Governance and Organisation; T. Baulk, Head of Finance and ICT; D. Gillies, Head of Property and Risk; J. Cronin, Head of Enterprise, Development and Leisure; and J. McClure, Committee Services Lead Officer.

1. Declaration of Interest.

In terms of Council Standing Order No. 17 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct, Councillor Brian Connolly declared an interest in item 5(1) of this Minute as he was Chair of the Ayrshire Golf Trust, however, as the Panel intimated that questions may be directed to Councillor Connolly in his capacity as Chair of the Ayrshire Golf Trust, it was agreed that he should remain in the room to answer any questions in his capacity as Chair of the Trust, and thereafter leave the room once discussions were taking place.

2. Variation in Order of Business.

In terms of Council Standing Order No. 13(2), the Panel agreed to vary the order of business as hereinafter minuted.

3. Procedural Matter.

Following questions and comments on the confidentiality of the following report and whether it should remain confidential, the Executive Director – Resources, Governance and Organisation advised that, in terms of Council Standing Order No. 35.4(7), where any item was considered by the Leadership Panel with the public excluded (in accordance with Standing Order 10.1(1) or (2)), then the public shall also be excluded during consideration of the item at the Audit and Governance Panel and Standing Order No. 32.5 shall apply.

4. 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 following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information in terms of paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

5. **Call-ins from Leadership Panel of 13th February 2018.**

(1) **Proposed Acquisition of Land at Craigie Way, Craigie Park, Ayr.**

Reference was made to the Minutes of the Leadership Panel of 13th February 2018 (Page 7, paragraph 20) when the Panel, having considered a report (issued to Members only) of 7th February 2018 by the Head of Property and Risk, granted authority to the Executive Director – Resources, Governance and Organisation

- (a) to purchase an area extending to approximately 4.7 hectares (11.61 acres) at Craigie Way from the University of the West of Scotland on the terms outlined the report; and
- (b) to request Legal Services to conclude this transaction.

The Panel was advised that the report had been the subject of a call-in (issued to members only), details of which were outlined by Councillor Davis when he introduced and spoke to the call-in.

The Head of Property and Risk provided a response to the points raised in the call-in and Councillor Douglas Campbell, as Leader of the Council outlined his vision for this Project.

Questions were raised by Panel Members and responded to by the Head of Property and Risk; a discussion took place in relation to the criteria for submitting a call-in; and concerns were expressed regarding more information being required in reports to enable Members to make an informed decision.

Decided: to uphold the decision of the Leadership Panel.

(2) **Golf Development Academy.**

Reference was made to the Minutes of the Leadership Panel of 13th February 2018 (Page 4, paragraph 10) when the Panel, having considered a report (issued) of 6th February 2018 by the Head of Enterprise, Development and Leisure

- (a) agreed in principle with the preferred location within Belleisle Park identified for the Golf Development Academy; and
- (b) requested that the Ayrshire Golf Trust submit their finalised proposals and Business Plan which would form the basis of a report to the Leadership Panel for consideration in May 2018.

The Panel was advised that the report had been the subject of a [call-in](#) (issued), details of which were outlined by Councillor McCabe when he introduced and spoke to the call-in and he further advised that, following the additional information provided to Members on this matter since the call-in was submitted, his concerns had now been addressed.

Decided: to uphold the decision of the Leadership Panel.

The meeting ended at 10.55 a.m.