

LEADERSHIP PANEL.

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr
on 16th January 2018 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Douglas Campbell (Chair), Ian Cochrane, Julie Dettbarn, William Grant, Peter Henderson, Brian McGinley and Philip Saxton.

Attending: E. Howat, Chief Executive; L. Bloomer, Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment; D. Hutchison, Director of Educational Services; R. Riddiough, Head of Legal and Democratic Services; K. O'Hagan, Head of Employee and Customer Services; D. Burns, Head of Housing and Facilities; J. Johnstone, Economic Development Manager; and A. Gibson, Committee Services Officer.

Also

Attending: O. Campbell, I. Gall and D. Gemmell, (for items 4 to 6 only).

Apologies: P. Davey, T. Robinson and E. Terras.

1. Declarations 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 28th November 2017 ([issued](#)) were submitted and approved.

3. Decision Log.

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

Lifelong Learning.

4. Response to Scottish Government Consultation on the Provisions of the Education (Scotland) Bill.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 8th January 2018 by the Director of Educational Services seeking approval of the Council's response to the Scottish Government consultation on the Provisions of the Education (Scotland) Bill.

The Panel, having agreed the importance of narrowing the attainment gap in schools

Decided: to approve the terms of the draft response, attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

5. **Breakfast Clubs in South Ayrshire Schools.**

Reference was made to the minutes of the Council of 5th October 2017 (Page 9, paragraph 17(c)) and there was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 9th January 2018 by the Director of Educational Services

- (1) providing an update on breakfast clubs in schools across South Ayrshire, including the number of schools operating a breakfast club, the cost per child, whether the club is privately run or run by the Council, information on attendance, levels of staffing and budgetary costs as outlined within the appendices to the report; and
- (2) recommending that breakfast clubs operating in South Ayrshire schools should not be charged for school lets.

The Panel, having discussed the need to be kept informed of progress

Decided: having considered the information contained within the appendices to the report, to agree

- (a) that breakfast clubs operating in South Ayrshire schools would not be charged for school lets from Wednesday, 25th October 2017;
- (b) that breakfast clubs starting after that date would not be charged for school lets;
- (c) that the cost of £8,905.20 for school lets for the remainder of the financial year would be met from uncommitted reserves;
- (d) that, thereafter, the costs would be considered as part of the budget for 2018/19 and 2019/20; and
- (e) that an update be provided to this Panel in September 2018.

6. **South West Educational Improvement Collaborative Plan 2018.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 9th January 2018 by the Director of Educational Services seeking approval that authority was delegated to the Director of Educational Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Lifelong Learning, to agree the South West Educational Improvement Collaborative Plan which was to be submitted to Scottish Ministers by the end of January 2018.

The Panel, having conveyed their support for this Plan and having noted that the role of Elected Members was still being defined

Decided: to delegate authority to the Director of Educational Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Lifelong Learning to agree the final South West Educational Improvement Collaborative Plan for 2018.

Sustainability and the Environment.

7. Biodiversity Duty Report 2014-17 (January 2018).

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of January 2018 by the Head of Neighbourhood Services

- (1) seeking approval of the second South Ayrshire Council progress report 2014-17 in relation to the Council's public sector biodiversity duties; and
- (2) advising that the first report had been made publicly available on 1st January 2015 and informing that this second report was required to be made publicly available in January 2018.

The Panel, having noted that it would be beneficial if schools could be involved in this process; that work had been undertaken with a wide range of landholders to help expand biodiversity in this area; and that this Panel would be kept informed of progress

Decided:

- (a) to approve the South Ayrshire Council Biodiversity Duty Report 2014-17, as contained in Appendix 1 of the report; and
- (b) to agree that this report be made publicly available.

Corporate, Strategic and Community Planning.

8. Scottish Public Services Ombudsman – Complaints Handling.

Reference was made to the minutes of the Council of 5th October 2017 (Page 10, paragraph 20) and there was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 8th January 2018 by the Chief Executive advising of the outcome of a review of complaints handling, particularly in relation to any recommendations made by the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman.

The Panel, having welcomed the report

Decided: having considered the issues raised during the review of complaint handling

- (1) to note the issues addressed by the introduction and refinement of the Complaints Procedure in April 2013 as set out in paragraph 4.1 of the report;
- (2) to approve the revised governance and monitoring arrangements as outlined at paragraphs 4.2 to 4.4 of the report;
- (3) to request that the Head of Regulatory Services amend the Council's Scheme of Delegation to provide that recommendations from the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO) that included financial redress must be remitted to the Leadership Panel or full Council for consideration and decision; and
- (4) to note that the report would be shared with the SPSO.

Housing and Customer Services.

9. Empty Homes Strategy 2018-2023.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 12th December 2017 by the Head of Housing and Facilities seeking agreement to the revised Empty Homes Strategy for the period 2018–2023 which outlined new proposals to maximise the number of empty homes brought back into use across South Ayrshire.

The Panel, having noted the position with regard to tenants who wished to sell their properties after having been awarded monies to refurbish them using the Homes Revolving Loan Fund and the reasons for the reluctance of owners to rent their properties, the Panel

Decided:

- (1) to note the progress that had been made to date to bring empty homes back into use across South Ayrshire and the current options utilised by the Council to support this initiative; and
- (2) to approve the revised Empty Homes Strategy for the period 2018-2023, as contained within Appendix 1 of the report.

Resources and Performance.

10. Request for the Use of the Efficiency and Improvement Fund to Procure a Modernised Legal Debt Recovery System.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 9th January 2018 by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services requesting the use of a maximum of £26,000 (including 10% contingency) from the Efficiency and Improvement Fund for the procurement of a modernised legal debt recovery system.

The Panel

Decided: to approve the use of up to £26,000 from the Efficiency and Improvement Fund for the procurement of a modernised legal debt recovery system.

11. Framework for Managing Workforce Change.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 8th January 2018 by the Head of Employee and Customer Services seeking approval of the terms of a draft No Compulsory Redundancy Pledge for incorporation in the Council's Framework for Managing Workforce Change (which also incorporated the Redundancy Policy).

The Panel

Decided:

- (1) to approve the draft No Compulsory Redundancy Pledge, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, with immediate effect; and
- (2) to agree that the Head of Employee and Customer Services, in consultation with the Trade Unions, review and update the Council's Framework for Managing Workforce Change to reflect the terms of this pledge.

12. 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 1 and 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

Lifelong Learning.

13. Secondary Promoted Teachers Refresh.

There was submitted a report (issued to members only) of 14th December 2017 by the Director of Educational Services seeking approval to grant voluntary early retirement to two teaching staff on grounds of efficiency of the service.

The Panel

Decided: to approve the early retirement, with a non-actuarial reduction of pension benefits, of two teaching staff on grounds of efficiency of the service.

Economic Development, Tourism and Leisure.

14. Company A Support Proposal.

Reference was made to the minutes of 14th February 2017 (Page 9, paragraph 25) and there was submitted a report (issued to members only) of 13th December 2017 by the Head of Enterprise, Development and Leisure seeking approval to provide grant assistance to Company A as a component part of a wider support package in conjunction with Scottish Enterprise.

The Panel

Decided:

- (1) to delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Tourism and Leisure, to approve a contribution of up to £100,000 from reserves allocated to Invest South Ayrshire as part of a package of support in conjunction with Scottish Enterprise; and
- (2) to note that the £100,000 of unallocated reserves previously approved by the Leadership Panel at its meeting on 14th February 2017 to support Company A was no longer required.

15. Consideration of Disclosure of the above Confidential Reports.

Decided: not to authorise the disclosure under Standing Order 32.4 of the whole or part of the following reports:-

- Secondary Promoted Teachers Refresh; and
- Company A Support Proposal.

The meeting ended at 11.05 a.m.