

LEADERSHIP PANEL.

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

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

Attending: E. Howat, Chief Executive; D. Hutchison, Depute Chief Executive and Director - People; D. Gillies, Director – Place; T. Eltringham, Director of Health and Social Care; C. Caves, Head of Regulatory Services; T. Baulk, Head of Finance and ICT; K. Dalrymple, Service Lead - Neighbourhood Services; D. Yuille, Service Lead – Special Property Projects; K. Briggs, Service Lead - Legal and Licensing; K. Anderson, Service Lead – Corporate and Housing Policy; M. Douglas, Team Leader (Licensing); and A. Gibson, Committee Services Officer.

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 12th June 2018 ([issued](#)) were submitted and approved

3. Decision Log.

Decided:

- (1) to approve the list of overdue actions; and
- (2) to note the recently completed actions.

Sustainability and the Environment.

4. Specification for Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles.

There was submitted a joint report ([issued](#)) of 7th August 2018 by the Head of Regulatory Services and Director – Place advising of proposed changes to the current taxi and private hire vehicle specification.

The Panel

Decided: to agree that, in the first instance, consultation take place with the South Ayrshire Taxi and Private Hire Operators Forum.

5. Review of Child Burials and Cremations.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 20th July 2018 by the Director- Place seeking approval to amend the age of child funerals to age 17 and in line with Scottish Government and COSLA guidance.

Having noted with pleasure this change, the Panel

Decided:

- (1) to approve the change in classification of a child funeral to those aged 17 and under; and
- (2) to agree that the fees, as detailed in the report, be removed for this age group.

Corporate, Strategic and Community Planning.

6. Revisions to Arrangements which Support Community Councils.

Decided: to note that this matter would be continued to a future meeting of this Panel.

Housing and Customer Services.

7. Improving Housing Outcomes for Care Experienced Young People.

There was submitted a joint report ([issued](#)) of 31st July 2018 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director - People and Director - South Ayrshire HSCP seeking endorsement to the Action Plan to improving housing outcomes for young people leaving care.

Following questions from Members and having noted that there would be a person centred approach to the Action Plan; that there should be a probation period for the Plan, with an update to this Panel in six months time; that further support for young people leaving care was being explored, including support from Ayrshire Housing; that funding was available to young people to help furnish their properties; that the prevention of young people entering hostel accommodation after leaving care would be examined; and that other Councils had been examined for good practice, the Panel

Decided:

- (1) to agree the Action Plan to improve housing outcomes for young people leaving care;
- (2) to note the progress made to date in this area, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report; and
- (3) to agree that an update report be presented back to this Panel in six months, including details of training for staff and Elected Members.

8. **Scheme of Assistance 2018-23.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 31st July 2018 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director- People seeking approval to a revised Scheme of Assistance for homeowners and private tenants.

Following questions from Members and having noted that there would be no effect on budgets with this proposal; that enforcement in housing would always be used as a last option; and that the Council currently had an empty homes strategy, the Panel

Decided: to agree the revised Scheme of Assistance, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

Health and Social Care.

9. **Care at Home Service Care Inspectorate Report.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 25th July 2018 by the Director of Health and Social Care advising of the progress made in delivering the requirements and recommendations made by the Care Inspectorate in their last report in respect of South Ayrshire Care at Home Service.

Having considered the progress made, and having noted that Members should be made aware of changes to processes and procedures; that evidence of change required to be provided to Members; that management change arrangements had taken longer to resolve than expected; that there would be formal feedback from the Care Inspectorate in due course; that when a support package was provided, action was taken as quickly as possible to implement it; that there was a need for robust leadership in this area; and that there needed to be a more person centred and outcome focussed approach, the Panel

Decided:

- (1) to note the actions that had been taken to effectively address the issues and gaps within the service, as outlined in the Care Inspectorate report; and
- (2) to agree that following issues raised at the meeting, a further report be presented providing further detail of the improvements made within the service to the next meeting of this Panel.

Resources and Performance.

10. **2017/18 Out-turn Review.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 6th August 2018 by the Head of Finance and ICT advising of the outcome of a review of the 2017/18 underspends contained in the service out-turn reports to determine whether any could be identified for use as permanent savings in future years.

The Panel

Decided: to note that a review of the 2017/18 out-turn had taken place within corporate budgets and operational service areas but that there were no material recurring underspends identified for use as permanent savings in future years.

11. Approvals under Delegated Authority during Period of Recess.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 30th July 2018 by the Head of Regulatory Services advising of matters determined under delegated authority during the period of recess.

The Panel

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

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 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.

Corporate, Strategic and Community Planning.

13. Office Rationalisation.

There was submitted a report (issued to Members only) of 25th July 2018 by the Director – Place advising of the options available to the Council in relation to the rationalisation of its office accommodation

The Panel

Decided:

- (1) to approve the progression of a number of projects to facilitate the clearance of Burns House by December 2019 with the authority to progress through SWHub as appropriate; and
- (2) to request the Director – Place bring forward further reports on progression of further rationalisation projects including Maybole and Girvan and options to reduce the travel carbon footprint for staff.

14. Confidential Reports Presented to Panel.

The Panel noted with great concern that the above confidential report had been released to the local press and having heard the Chief Executive, it was agreed that a report on how confidential reports be presented in the future, be considered at the next meeting of this Panel.

15. Consideration of Disclosure of the above Confidential Report.

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

- Office Rationalisation.

The meeting ended at 11.15 a.m.