

PARTNERSHIPS PANEL.

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,
on 12th September 2018 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Hugh Hunter (Chair), Siobhian Brown, Ian Cavana, Chris Cullen, Ian Davis and Arthur Spurling.

Attending: D. Gillies, Director – Place; W.Carlaw, Service Lead – Democratic Governance; K. Carr, Executive Manager (Place); K. Dalrymple, Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services (Place Directorate); T. Burns, Service Lead – Asset Management and Community Asset Transfer (Place Directorate); Chief Superintendent P. Main and Chief Inspector Gary l’Anson, Police Scotland; L. Marquis, Director, Energy Agency; and E. Wyllie, Committee Services Officer.

Also

Attending: Councillor Douglas Campbell, Portfolio-holder – Corporate, Strategic, and Community Planning and Health and Social Care – Adult Services, Councillor Ian Cochrane, Portfolio-holder – Sustainability and the Environment, Councillor Brian McGinley, Portfolio-holder - Economic Development, Tourism and Leisure.

1. Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Council Standing Order No. 17 and the Councillors’ Code of Conduct.

2. Minutes of previous meeting.

The minutes of 13th June 2018 ([issued](#)) were submitted and approved.

3. Action Plan and Work Programme.

There was submitted an Action Log and Work Programme ([issued](#)) for this Panel.

The Panel, having heard that the Work Programme would be revised to reflect a due date for the National Trust for Scotland’s update to the Panel

Decided: to note the Action Log and Work Programme.

4. Local Performance Report: Police Scotland.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 4th September 2018 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director – People providing information about the mid-year performance of Police Scotland in South Ayrshire.

The Chief Superintendent, Police Scotland commented as follows:-

- (1) on the policing from across Scotland to provide the level of protection required during the recent visit from the US President. He referred to the procedures in place and the support received from local communities, residents and South Ayrshire Council and expressed his gratitude to all involved;

- (2) on the recent fantastic Air Show;
- (3) on the Safer Shores initiative with a focus on Troon beach and that a multi-agency debriefing would be taking place in the near future; and
- (4) on the recent appointments of the Chief Constable Iain Livingstone and two Deputy Chief Constables Fiona Taylor and William Kerr and the forthcoming retirement of Detective Chief Inspector John Hogg.

The Chief Superintendent also took the opportunity to thank members of the Panel for their support in securing two additional Police Campus Officers within the schools. He then presented the performance report pertaining to South Ayrshire as contained within Appendix 1 of the report and highlighted a number of areas including data relating to missing people in response to a question raised by a member at a previous meeting of this Panel.

Thereafter, the Chief Inspector provided an update on the new Locality Policing teams across South Ayrshire and highlighted the role of these dedicated and problem solving teams.

A question was asked by a Member of the Panel in relation to sexual orientation crime and it was noted that there was a small specialist unit that supported minority groups to build confidence and trust as well as provide safety advice. Also, any reported crime of this nature would be investigated immediately.

In response to a question relating to the perpetrators of serious assaults within Ayr North, it was noted that a fifth of these assaults were undertaken by someone known to the person. The Chief Superintendent added that South Ayrshire was a safe place.

In relation to whether reporting increases were due to an increase in crime or an increase in confidence to report the crime, the Chief Superintendent indicated that this was mainly due to an increase in confidence, nationally and internationally, built up over a long period of time. Also, new crime reporting categories were in place which differed from, and not comparable with, that of 10-15 years ago such as online criminal acts.

A question was raised in relation to speeding on Whitletts Road, Ayr and the Chief Inspector commented on the criteria for speed cameras and the engineering requirements as well as supporting discussion to detect speeding activity.

In response to a question relating to a local authority community policing experiment involving the local community / community councils, it was noted that the Chief Superintendent was awaiting feedback and would circulate this when available.

In relation to a question about complaints and the role of the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner, the Chief Superintendent provided examples and outlined the procedures in place.

The Chair, on behalf of the Panel, thanked both Officers for their presentation. In turn, the Chief Superintendent thanked the South Ayrshire community for its support.

The Panel, having scrutinised the 2018/19 mid-year performance of Police Scotland in South Ayrshire

Decided: to note the report.

5. Energy Agency.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 28th August 2018 by the Director – Place providing an update on the work of the Energy Agency.

The Director, Energy Agency presented her update as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report and commented on the service level agreement with the Council and highlighted how the funding of £15,000 per annum was utilised.

A question was asked by a Member of the Panel in relation to the Council's position in progressing the development of a hydro scheme on River Ayr and the Director – Place advised that a cost and benefits analysis would be undertaken with findings reported in due course. A comment was made by a Member of the Panel in relation to energy initiatives such as the hydro scheme, wind farms and solar panelling and the position with Scottish Power networks and external energy suppliers. In terms of the hydro scheme, it was noted that initially it was considered that energy would be fed into the nearby College. However, Scottish Power had now agreed to take this power directly onto the grid thus providing a continuous income stream.

In response to a question as to whether those houses targeted for external wall insulation under the Home Energy Efficiency Programmes for Scotland had reduced energy costs, the Energy Agency Director indicated that there were significant monetary and noise reduction benefits. It was noted that analysis undertaken by the NHS also highlighted a number of health benefits such as a reduction in the number of hospital and GP visits in those areas. In terms of a rollout to other properties, the Energy Agency Director commented that this depended on the house type and associated costs. She added that newer programmes would be requesting a larger contribution which would be an ongoing challenge. In relation to questions with regard to four in a block properties and whether there was an opportunity for a pay-up fund, the Energy Agency Director commented that this was a problem that the Energy Agency could assist with.

In relation to a question regarding the environmental education programme and the reasons why certain schools had been targeted to participate, the Energy Agency Director explained that some teachers were really keen to work on ecological issues and that she would provide further information to Members of the Panel on those participating schools. In response to engaging with pupils, she added that normally work was undertaken with Primary School teachers and pupils. Also, the actual number of energy lessons provided was seventy.

The Chair invited Councillor Cochrane to comment in his capacity as Chair of the Energy Agency – South Ayrshire. Councillor Cochrane responded that recognition by the NHS on the physical health improvements as a result of Home Energy Efficiency Programmes was a very important point.

The Panel, having scrutinised the content of the report

Decided: to continue to support the work of the Energy Agency.

6. Performance Review of Common Good Funds.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 4th September 2018 by the Director – Place providing an update on the performance of Common Good Funds administered by the Council.

A question was asked in relation to the review timescales and it was noted that the next review would be undertaken within the next two to three years. The Chair commented that it would be preferable to see the detail of the review in two years' time.

The Panel, having scrutinised the governance and asset management arrangements under which all Common Good Funds operated

Decided: to agree that further reports on performance of common good assets be reported to the Leadership Panel with wider reviews reported to the Scrutiny Panel every three years.

7. Ayr Renaissance LLP – Progress Against Plan.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 4th September 2018 by the Director – Place advising of the progress being made by Ayr Renaissance LLP and enabling scrutiny of performance.

The Chair invited Councillors Douglas Campbell and Brian McGinley, Portfolio-holders, to the meeting. Thereon, Councillor Campbell provided an update in relation to Ayr Renaissance and proposals for the vision for Ayr Town Centre. In response to a question from a Member of the Panel relating to Ayr Renaissance, it was noted that officers were currently reviewing the LLP Agreement with the findings being reported by the Chief Executive to a forthcoming meeting of the Council for its consideration. In terms of a reporting mechanism to update members on the progress being made with various projects, it was noted that the report by the Chief Executive would most likely address this issue.

Further questions were asked in relation to delays in project delivery and any lessons learned. It was noted that members of staff working under Ayr Renaissance had recently been transferred to the Council and formed part of a larger team under the Place Directorate. In general terms, the Director – Place commented that in recent years the Council had improved its project management skills and robust procedures were in place to track and monitor the delivery of various Council projects.

In response to a question relating to the timescales for work at the former Clydesdale Bank building, it was noted that the re-fit of the ground floor should be completed for November 2018, however, further work to the upstairs area was being proposed and planned for next year.

A question was asked by a Member of the Panel in relation to the heritage trail and it was noted that obtaining matching granite had caused delays with the completion of this project.

In response to a question relating to funding for improvements within other South Ayrshire towns, the Director – Place reported on some of these plans and funding as well as engagement with local members and community councils. Councillor McGinley commented on the current position with the development of place plans. It was noted that funding opportunities and choices would emerge from the place planning process.

The Chair, on behalf of the Panel, took the opportunity to thank the volunteer members and the Chair and former Chair of the Ayr Renaissance Board for their hard work and valuable contribution to Ayr Renaissance.

The Panel, having reviewed the progress of Ayr Renaissance against the plan set out in Appendix 1 of the report

Decided: to note the progress being made.

The meeting ended at 12.00 noon.