

PARTNERSHIPS PANEL.

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,
on 13th June 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, Democratic and Governance Manager; C. Monaghan, Service Lead – Community Services and Facilities; M. Baker, Service Lead – Corporate Planning and Improvement; S. Turner, Head of Roads, Ayrshire Roads Alliance; Jim Scott, Area Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service; P. Linton, Quay Zone General Manager and E. Wyllie, Committee Services Officer.

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 18th April 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 noted that a number of actions were near completion and responses would be circulated to Members of the Panel prior to Summer Recess 2018

Decided: to note the action log and work programme.

4. Local Performance Report: Scottish Fire and Rescue.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 7th June 2018 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director – People providing information about the year-end performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in South Ayrshire.

The Area Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service presented the performance report pertaining to South Ayrshire as contained within Appendix 1 of the report. He also referred to a number of updates as outlined in Appendix 2 of the report.

A question was asked by a Member of the Panel as to why there was an increase in the number of domestic safety incidents in Ayr West Ward and the Area Manager responded that this spike could be the result of a number of factors such as the concentration of the population, elderly members and telecare usage as well as deprivation but he was unable to provide a definitive reason as often spikes were variable in location although with a tendency to be linked with domestic cooking.

In relation to deliberate fire setting, a question was asked about the 27% share of deliberate fires in Ayr North Ward and the Area Manager advised that this was an issue that was not static in nature. There were various sources and differing profiles of those engaged in this concerning activity. However, as fire starting was still attractive to young people, the Fire and Rescue Service targeted schools to give talks on the dangers of fire starting and on the waste of resources.

In terms of smoke detectors fitted during home fire safety visits, it was noted that detectors were usually fitted as a result of a request for a fire home safety visit and a priority visit would be scheduled if the resident indicated that they did not have a detector. The Area Manager also advised that the Service had been supplying alarms for over thirteen years now and some older detectors would be reaching the end of their life span. These would be identified during the course of visits.

A question was asked in relation to attendance at road traffic collisions and the number of incidents particularly around the Whitletts roundabout and the A77 and the Area Manager commented on the challenging road network and the speed camera infrastructure to deter speeding and careless driving. He also commented on the road safety programme regarding the dangers of reckless driving which was being shown at cinemas and on the importance of educating people as part of a partnership approach to reduce risk on the roads. A further question was asked in relation to the suggestion to increase the speed limit on a section of the A77 from 50mph to 70mph and whether this was considered safe to do so. The Area Manager commented that the figures presented within the report relate only to the number of incidents that the Fire and Rescue Service attended and that it would be better to use a broader range of statistics used to record incidents. He added that the service was called out to perhaps one out of seven incidents as a rough guide. The Panel noted that the Head of Roads, Ayrshire Roads Alliance would provide further detail on the position regarding the speed limit on the section of the A77 during his presentation later on the agenda.

In relation to the cause of accidental dwelling fires and the use of cooking appliances, it was noted that the cause was often not attributed to the actual appliance but more likely the person using the appliance having been distracted. Also, drugs and alcohol can sometimes play a part in reducing the person's awareness of risk when cooking.

A question was asked in relation to the data on unwanted fire alarm signals and the top five premises. The Area Manager commented on the approach being taken to identify the main issues within a particular type of building as different factors were in play and the response / action could then be tailored to that building to mitigate disruption and evacuation costs. It was noted that part of this approach involved education awareness. The Area Manager gave examples relating to a hospital and the use of a toaster where full evacuation would not be required but would still cause major disruption and steps were being put in place, for example, trying the use of pressure pads with toasters to avoid these types of incidents. Regular meetings took place with fire safety officers within hospitals to review procedures and practices. He gave similar examples relating to schools, hotels and residential homes with varying factors and tailored responses in place.

The Chair, on behalf of the Panel, thanked the Area Manager for his presentation and the Service for its continued work and support.

The Panel, having scrutinised the 2017/18 year-end performance report of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in South Ayrshire

Decided: to note the report.

5. The Quay Zone Performance Report.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 7th June 2018 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director – People inviting the Panel to scrutinise the performance of the Quay Zone in Girvan which is operated by South Carrick Community Leisure under arrangements agreed by the Council in March 2017.

A question was asked about price setting and the Quay Zone General Manager advised that this depended on the product but was consistent with the prices set by South Ayrshire Council.

In relation to ongoing maintenance costs of the building, the General Manager advised that this was the responsibility of the organisation. He added that a repair and replace programme of equipment was also being developed as part of a financial planning strategy although this might create a problem if funders then thought that the organisation had too much money. However, it was a requirement of the forty year repairing lease that the new building be returned at an approved standard. The Director – Place commented that this was a prudent approach and that the Council funding of £200,000 was part of a financial agreement which would be subject to a five year review.

A question was asked in relation to visitors to the Quay Zone and it was noted that visitors were predominately from the Girvan and South Carrick area and local primary schools. The General Manager commented on accessibility issues for some of the rural villages and community transport options had been explored. Also, summer visitors came from local caravan parks. He added that the soft play area was a successful out of area attraction for a family day out.

The Panel, having scrutinised the performance of the Quay Zone and welcomed the progress to date

Decided: to note the report.

6. Ayrshire Roads Alliance Service Plan 2018/19 and Performance Report 2017/18.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 7th June 2018 by the Director – Place presenting the Ayrshire Roads Alliance Service Plan for 2018/19 and the performance report for 2017/18.

The Head of Roads, Ayrshire Roads Alliance referred to a query raised at Agenda Item No. 4 relating to road safety issues on a specific section of the A77 and the suggestion made by Transport Scotland and agreed by the Authority that as a result of the road improvements to increase the speed limit from 50mph to 70mph. He added that a number of objections had been received over this proposal and following review by an Independent Special Reports Team within Transport Scotland it had concluded that the speed limit remain at 50mph however this could be reviewed in the future. He advised that roads were very safe although work was ongoing to reduce the number of accidents and most accidents were a result of inappropriate driving, speeding or both. The Head of Roads further commented that a number of minor accidents were not reported therefore in some instances it could be difficult to determine if there was a particular issue with a road or not.

A question was asked in relation to potholes and the impact of inclement weather and the Head of Roads advised that Ayrshire had experienced its worst weather since 1996 creating a large volume of potholes which were subsequently difficult to repair during bad weather conditions. He explained the process to make potholes safe in the first instance and that, with the increase in funding by South Ayrshire Council, potholes were being tackled as part of the capital programme. It was noted that the A77 was not the responsibility of Ayrshire Roads Alliance and was maintained by Amey however ongoing discussions took place with Amey, Transport Scotland and Scotland TranServ in relation to concerns regarding potholes on this trunk road.

A question was asked in relation to the Service Plan 2018/19 and budget setting process and the Head of Roads explained that the Ayrshire Shared Service Joint Committee approved the draft plan at its meeting on 8th December 2017 and both Councils approved their respective budgets in March 2018.

In relation to the bridge replacement budget allocation of £0.834, it was noted this funding had been allocated for the Bridge of Coyle repair costs and a report to determine the use of remaining funds and Council priorities would be submitted to a future meeting of the Leadership Panel. The Director – Place clarified that this work was included within the Council's capital programme.

A question was asked in relation to differences in the budgets between both councils. The Head of Roads explained two of the main differences – one being the flooding protection scheme which had attracted 80% Scottish Government funding of the overall costs associated with a project in New Cumnock relevant to East Ayrshire Council. The other variance also related to East Ayrshire Council with general funding received from Strathclyde Partnership for Transport for work at the village of Glenbuck. He also pointed out that East Ayrshire Council had inputted £6m and South Ayrshire Council had inputted £4m into the respective capital programmes.

A question was asked in relation to community engagement and obtaining views from the community on certain matters and the Head of Roads advised that this was done via Community Councils as they were recognised as representative of their respective community.

A comment was made in relation to some changes to the plans for introducing car parking charges in Troon and an update was requested in relation to car parking charges and impact assessments. The Head of Roads commented that although this was an emotive topic from a transport perspective, charging was preferred as it moved vehicles around. He commented that a review of car parking was currently underway and that he would liaise with the Council's Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services in relation to the identified streets and areas. In terms of publicising any new parking charges, the Head of Roads advised that the introduction of new charges would be subject to Traffic Regulation Orders involving a wide consultation process including the relevant community councils. It was noted that this was a lengthy process over a number of months.

The Panel

Decided: to note

- (1) the Ayrshire Roads Alliance Service Plan for 2018/19;
- (2) that regular progress updates would be provided to the Ayrshire Shared Service Joint Committee; and
- (3) the performance report for 2017/18.

The meeting ended at 11.35 a.m.