

PARTNERSHIPS PANEL.

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,
on 18th April 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; K. Dalrymple, Service Lead - Neighbourhood Services; J. Johnstone, Service Lead - Economic Development; C. Monaghan, Service Lead – Community Services and Facilities; Chief Superintendent P. Main and Chief Inspector G. I'Anson, Police Scotland; K. Braidwood, Operations Manager, Ayrshire Roads Alliance; B. Kiloh, and J. Binning, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport; and E. Wyllie, Committee Services Officer.

Also

Attending: Councillor Ian Cochrane, Portfolio Holder for Sustainability and the Environment.

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 7th February 2018 ([issued](#)) were submitted and approved.

3. Petition Relating to the Removal of Mechanical Cleaning at Ayr Beach North.

There was submitted a petition containing eighty-five signatures, in the following terms, namely:-

'to get the north end of Ayr South Beach cleaned again'.

Under the provisions of Council Standing Order No. 31 for Meetings, the Chair then invited the Petitioning Group consisting of Lorna Roseweir, Alan Roseweir and Iain McKie to come forward to present the case to the meeting. The Chair referred to the petitions protocol and indicated that the petitioners addressing the meeting would be limited to ten minutes in total which included an opportunity to sum-up.

The three petitioners addressed the Panel and the Lead Petitioner referred to paragraph 3.1 of the officer's report and clarified that the petition had been submitted by herself and not by a representative of the Citadel Quay Owners' Association.

Their main points were as follows:-

- (1) why was it only the section of Ayr beach between Cromwell Road and the end of Blackburn car park which had been designated as an amenity beach in 2007;

- (2) as there is no record of public consultation or meeting minutes relating to this, who then decided to designate the beach in this way and, in relation to zoning (refer to Page 4 of the Environment Protection Act 1990: Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (Scotland) 2006) no evidence of publicising the purpose of the zoning could be found. It was felt that a review of zoning would allow for public debate;
- (3) the map attached as Appendix 2 to the report is now out of date as some of the facilities are no longer there such as the miniature golf and putting green;
- (4) lifesaving equipment points do not stretch to the North end of the beach;
- (5) in terms of Keep Scotland Beautiful relating to information, facilities and cleanliness – this should also be applied to the North end of the beach;
- (6) that when the flats were purchased, it was assumed that the beach would stay the same way i.e. paragraph 3.5 of the report indicates that between 2007 and the end of the summer season 2015 the Council maintained both sections of the beach. There are 151 flats at the North end, the old boat was in a reasonable condition and there is massive potential although it is acknowledged that work is being done. In relation to coping stone replacement works, material had been discarded on the beach;
- (7) although the decision to clean both sections of the beach differently was the result of a budget saving exercise, council tax had increased;
- (8) the petition was submitted in February 2018 and a few days later the beach was cleaned;
- (9) the beach really needed cleaned as the river brings in marine litter; and
- (10) the beach being in this state has perhaps contributed to a drop in footfall. The beach in its entirety should be recognised as the jewel in the crown for Ayr and used to generate visitors and tourism. Studies in other towns provided assessments of visitor impacts.

At this point, the Panel were invited to ask questions of the petitioners.

A question was asked by a member of the Panel in relation to the classification of Ayr beach and an awareness of the residents within the flats at the North end of the beach and the petitioners indicated that they had not been aware of the classification and that it first came to light in 2017.

The Chair thanked the petitioners for bringing this matter to the attention of the Panel and asked them to return to the public seating area. He then invited the Portfolio-holder and the Service Lead - Neighbourhood Services to come forward.

The Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services proceeded to speak to the report ([issued](#)) of 11th April 2018 by the Director – Place and advised

- (a) that there was no public consultation in 2007 and there was no requirement to consult;
- (b) that there were no minutes recording the decision relating to the beach designation;

- (c) that, up until 2014/15, the entire beach was maintained to the higher standard of cleanliness but, in 2016/17, as a result of a budget decision which reduced the number of seasonal employees, the maintenance regime for amenity and residential beaches in terms of timescales and criteria as set out in the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse 2006 was applied to Ayr beach;
- (d) that the Council had responsibility for nine beaches and Girvan beach had a similar arrangement to that of Ayr Beach. In addition, restoration work at Prestwick Beach had been added to the workload;
- (e) of the work pattern of operatives and the work pressures following the introduction of the first year of operation of the new staffing structure; and
- (f) that mechanical cleaning was kept to a minimum to protect the biodiversity of fauna and flora and that handpicking of litter was used where feasible. Also, there was dune formation at the North beach area and he informed of a meeting with residents in 2017 to advise of this.

The Portfolio-holder indicated that there was a need to reduce mechanical cleaning in order to protect the environment and to encourage re-duning. He added that this aspect regarding protecting the biodiversity of beaches needed to be highlighted and made clear to the public. He commented on an incident when the dunes were raked for the Air show last year thus undoing some of the good work on biodiversity carried out by the Council.

At this point, the Panel were invited to ask questions.

A member of the Panel expressed his disappointment that a distinction had been made between two parts of the beach. A question was asked in relation to the estimated increase in costs of £37,000 for a maintenance regime and the Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services advised that this would be required to cover the cost of maintaining all beach across South Ayrshire to the same standard. He provided a breakdown of the staffing requirements and associated costs.

In relation to whether it was cost effective to have different cleaning regimes for two parts of the same beach i.e. amenity part mechanically cleaned and recreational part handpicked, the Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services advised that this was more to do with meeting timescales and also the requirement for the mechanical cleaning of other beaches on different days and locations.

In response to a question in relation to what was classified as an acceptable standard, the Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services referred to the Code of Practice and the Grade B classification.

As there were no further questions, the Chair asked the Officer and Portfolio-holder to return to the public seating area.

At this point, the petitioners were asked to sum up their case before the meeting moved to its decision. The Lead Petitioner referred to the Environmental Protection Act 1990: Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (Scotland) Act 2006 and the need to adhere to this Act. She re-iterated that the beach was a jewel in the crown. It was a beautiful area and it would be a shame to lose this asset given the issues with the bottom end of the town.

A full discussion took place and the Panel expressed disappointment that there were no records available regarding the decision made in 2007 and that there appeared to be a lack of consultation at that time.

The Chair, on behalf of the Panel, thanked the petitioners for coming forward. He added that he felt that Neighbourhood Services do a great job with the resources that they have and that this discussion was not a criticism of them.

The Panel, having given due consideration to all the information put before it

Decided: to recommend to the Leadership Panel to consider requesting that a review of the classification of South Ayrshire Council beaches be undertaken and that this should include the widest possible consultation.

4. **Action Plan and Work Programme.**

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

The Director - Place gave an update and said that the Service Lead - Neighbourhood Services would provide information relating to Action Point 5 relating to the South Ayrshire Waste and Environment Trust in the near future. He added that he would obtain updates from the Service Lead – Economic Development in relation to Action Points 7 and 8.

The Panel

Decided: to note the Action Log and Work Programme.

5. **Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT).**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 11th April 2018 by the Director – Place outlining the work of the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) and the impact its services had on the public transport network in South Ayrshire and across the west of Scotland and providing an opportunity to identify any areas for further discussion or development of partnership activity.

The Chair welcomed and invited the Operations Manager, Ayrshire Roads Alliance and representatives from SPT to the meeting. The Operations Manager introduced the report and Bruce Kiloh, SPT presented the Transport Outcomes Report for 2017/18 for South Ayrshire, attached as Appendix 1 of the report, to Members of the Panel.

A question was asked by a Member of the Panel in relation to the action being taken to address the rate of satisfaction with public transport in South Ayrshire which was around 10% lower than the rest of Scotland's satisfaction rate. Bruce Kiloh, SPT intimated that this could relate to bus operators and rail service issues. He commented on the service improvement partnerships which would provide SPT the evidence to pursue any matters.

In relation to the main mode of travel for South Ayrshire at 21% for public transport, higher in comparison to the wider Scotland percentage, Bruce Kiloh, SPT advised that this was due to South Ayrshire being such a rural area. He added that there were excellent rail services to Glasgow but rural bus services were open to improvement.

In relation to how much was spent on South Ayrshire, it was noted that SPT gave back in terms of revenue and capital and Bruce Kiloh, SPT also commented that in terms of Glasgow Subway, for example, 50% of the passengers lived out with Glasgow.

A question was asked in relation to the 24,000 bus departures from Buchanan Bus Station for services to South Ayrshire and it was noted that this was an increase in numbers.

In terms of Access to All and the £31,000 grant to Access to Employment Ayr Community Transport and whether this funding was ongoing, Bruce Kiloh, SPT advised that he would check this out and respond accordingly to Panel Members.

Further questions were asked in relation to whether Ayr would be obtaining a new bus station and on the position with a park and ride at Monkton for Glasgow Prestwick Airport. Bruce Kiloh, SPT explained that, in relation to the bus station, this was owned by Stagecoach and suggested that discussions could take place with representatives from SPT, South Ayrshire Council and Stagecoach. In respect of park and ride, Bruce Kiloh, SPT would investigate the current position and also keep the Portfolio-holder updated on this matter.

In terms of maximising the use of Mybus and engaging with those in more deprived areas, Bruce Kiloh, SPT said that this was a hugely important service to combat social isolation and explained the current advertising and booking methods. He welcomed any suggestions for other ways to publicise the service. In relation to the gap in deprived areas using the service, he suggested that a discussion took place with housing and community partners to see how best to promote the service.

In relation to the capital funding SPT provided to the Council for 2017/18 as detailed within the report, a question was asked as to what SPT would be doing in 2018/19 and Bruce Kiloh, SPT advised that he would arrange for this information to be circulated to Members of the Panel. He further commented on regional works that were being developed. The Operations Manager added that a number of projects mentioned by Bruce Kiloh, SPT had been detailed within a report submitted to the Council's Leadership Panel on 24th April 2018.

Information was sought in relation to cycling routes by a Member of the Panel and it was noted that 17% of SPT's capital programme went into cycling routes in partnership with Sustrans and the Council. Also, the Scottish Government provided funding for active travel.

The Panel, having scrutinised the performance of SPT in relation to its activities within South Ayrshire

Decided: to note the activities within South Ayrshire.

6. Local Performance Report: Police Scotland.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 11th April 2018 by the Chief Executive providing information about the year-end performance of Police Scotland in South Ayrshire as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

The Chair invited the Chief Superintendent to present his report. The Chief Superintendent began by thanking his team and thanking partners. He then referred to the performance summary data and highlighted some of the statistics.

A question was asked by a Member of the Panel in relation to missing persons and the Chief Superintendent commented that a large number were repeat incidents of young people from children's homes. He said that information was shared with Child Protection Services and that the January 2018 report was available, if so wished.

In relation to a question on the use of TASER, the Chief Superintendent offered a demonstration and described the circumstances of its use and that this was undertaken in a transparent way. Following further questions, he also commented on training and psychological aspects and control methods in place for officers.

In terms of hate crime data, the Chief Superintendent advised that third party reporting was very good however with the loss of community facilities reporting was down. Training was ongoing to raise awareness and encourage reporting of hate crime within communities.

A question was asked in relation to an increase in disorder. The Chief Inspector explained that it was difficult to understand why these statistics had increased as there was a lot of good work undertaken within community partnerships. This consisted of a pro-active approach with a good structure in place to tackle disorder, however, pockets of disorder arose and some individuals were also known to cause disorder, for example, last year one spike was attributable to three individuals and the police had worked with social work to get support for these individuals. In terms of targeted housebreaking by groups travelling into the area, preventative work was ongoing with colleagues across Scotland to curb this activity.

In relation to whether officers were trained in dementia awareness, the Chief Superintendent commented on Police Scotland's training product. He also added that officers' day-to-day family experiences equipped them so issues such as dementia and also mental health issues were part of a lived experience as well as a training issue. It was noted that it would be good to see an analysis around training in next year's report. The Chief Inspector added that a training session on awareness raising of dementia had recently been held.

The Service Lead – Community Services and Facilities added that there was an increase in joint working and thanked Police Scotland as it brought significant benefits to South Ayrshire.

The Panel, having scrutinised the 2017/18 end-year performance of Police Scotland in South Ayrshire

Decided: to note the report.

7. Draft Local Police Plan for South Ayrshire.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 10th April 2018 by the Chief Executive advising that a refreshed Local Police Plan for South Ayrshire was under development and inviting the Panel to comment on the draft Local Plan attached as Appendix 1 of the report.

The Service Lead – Community Services and Facilities advised that this important document would be submitted to the Community Planning Board on 3rd May and also to the Leadership Panel on 22nd May 2018. She added that there had been constructive dialogue with Police Scotland and various groups have had the opportunity to add comments.

Thereon, the Chief Inspector referred to the plan and advised of the five new priorities and that this was a partnership approach and, as part of the consultation process, he welcomed comments.

A question was asked by a Member of the Panel in relation to members of the public reporting incidents to the police and the Chief Inspector advised that they were trying to improve ways in which people reported criminality directly to Police Scotland or via third party reporting mechanisms. He commented on the good working relationship with partner organisations and, for instance, Social Work would alert Police Scotland of situations.

In relation to road safety issues and technology, the Chief Inspector commented on engineering work with Ayrshire Roads Alliance to identify locations within towns and trunk roads to improve safety. The Chief Superintendent added that as well as engineering works it was also a matter of educating people.

In terms of speeding vehicles and what a local community could do to enhance enforcement, it was noted that this was not peculiar to South Ayrshire. The Chief Superintendent advised of a Police Scotland initiative – Community Speed Watch – whereby members of the local community could be involved and, following training, were able to use equipment and record speed and then notify Police Scotland. In response to whether he felt that such an approach was dangerous, he advised that a safe area would be identified to undertake this work and feedback from a similar approach in another local authority area had been positive.

A further question was asked in relation to speeding and inappropriate parking around schools, the Service Lead – Community Services and Facilities commented on the joint work undertaken with Police Scotland when a pattern of complaints emerged. Part of this approach was based on raising parents' awareness of the dangers. The Chief Superintendent commented that this approach was more effective than enforcement as the answer rested within communities. He was happy to assist with any collaborative work within local schools to address this issue.

A question was raised in relation to CCTV and the Service Lead – Community Services and Facilities provided an update in relation to a current review of technology and of innovative funding for a joint approach and the flexible use of mobile technology. The Chief Superintendent further commented on the use of mobile deployment of CCTV as and when required compared to the fixed approach adopted in the 1990s.

In terms of “campus cops”, the Chief Superintendent valued the use of Campus Police Officers greatly and this provision could be increased proportionately, if it was felt that it was required.

A question was asked in relation to intervention and the concept of the Whole Systems Approach. The Chief Inspector advised of a collective approach involving education, social work, children's reporter, health services and Police Scotland with a focus on young people to help reduce harm to themselves and others. The Service Lead – Community Services and Facilities further added that this partnership approach was an effective one. A briefing note was requested in relation to this approach.

The Service Lead – Community Services and Facilities summed-up the main points that she proposed to include in the feedback narrative as follows:-

- that the Panel was supportive of this Plan;
- maximise road safety;
- joint approach to CCTV;
- Campus Police Officers; and
- a briefing on the Whole Systems Approach requested.

The Panel

Decided: to agree with the above points made in relation to the draft Local Plan and that the Service Lead – Community Services and Facilities would feedback these comments appropriately.

8. **Scottish Parliament Call for Evidence: Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 11th April 2018 by the Director – Place advising of a request from the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) for feedback in relation to the Scottish Parliament call for evidence on the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012

The Chief Superintendent reported that, five years on, the force was dealing with different issues now than that prior to the creation of Police Scotland such as exploitation and harm associated with online activities. He commented on the change in demand and that Police Scotland was a good balance between a centralist approach and maintaining the local element. Also, it was great having support from specialists as and when required who were not based in Ayrshire.

The Panel, having considered the suggested response to COSLA on this matter as attached in Appendix 1 of the report

Decided:

- (1) to amend response 1(b) within the Appendix of the report to read '*some negative consequences are the **perceived** reduction in local policing.....and act accordingly*'; and
- (2) to agree that the revised Appendix 1 would be provided to COSLA as the Council's response to the Scottish Parliament's call for evidence by 7th May 2018.

9. **National Trust for Scotland – Performance Report.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 11th April 2018 by the Director – Place outlining the work of the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) in South Ayrshire that was supported by the Council and also providing the opportunity to identify any areas for further discussion or development of partnership activity.

The Chair expressed his disappointment that a representative from National Trust for Scotland was not present today and the Service Lead – Economic Development advised that the manager had sent his apologies as he was unable to attend this meeting.

In relation to health inequality and physical activity and free access to Culzean Country Park to encourage local use, questions were asked by Members of the Panel as to when and why free access stopped. The Service Lead – Economic Development advised that this had been trialled in 2015/16 but visitors were queuing for over an hour as the facilities were unable to deal with that amount of people, the park did not have infrastructure to cope with the increased numbers. Therefore a targeted approach was used and the Service Lead – Economic Development explained that areas had been identified via schools although there was difficulty with transporting people in and out of the Park. A whole package of work was going on and this should be finalised by June 2018.

A question was asked in relation to a reduction in funding from the Council towards events at the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum from the previous financial year and the Service Lead – Economic Development advised that this was because it depended on the projects and the specific support required.

In terms of the transport issues for young people, the Service Lead – Economic Development commented that this was an issue being addressed going forward.

In relation to the NTS investing in its assets and whether the Council could influence a more joined up approach by the NTS with its own facilities across the area, the Service Lead – Economic Development commented on under investment by the NTS and that there was little connection made between NTS facilities.

A question was asked in relation to the aims and objectives detailed within the report and asked if there was baseline data so that improvements could be measured going forward. The Service Lead – Economic Development commented on monitoring and evaluation and added that benchmarking was not in place and performance depended on customer feedback. It was noted that there was not a robust enough framework in place.

In terms of the amount of investment from the Council to the NTS, the Director – Place reported that a new service level agreement would need to be adopted with a suite of performance indicators in place so that the Council could measure value for money. This would be undertaken through the course of this year and presented to a future meeting of the Leadership Panel and also reported back to a future meeting of this Panel.

The Panel, having scrutinised the work of the NTS in relation to its activities in South Ayrshire

Decided: to note the current position in relation to the opportunity for the Council to reflect on its relationship with NTS and review its support activities with proposals in this regard being presented to the Leadership Panel in the autumn of 2018.

The meeting ended at 1.05 p.m.