

AYRSHIRE SHARED SERVICES JOINT COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,
on 15 February 2019 at 10.00 a.m.

- Present: Councillors Ian Cochrane (Chair), Bob Pollock, Alec Clark and Philip Saxton (all South Ayrshire Council); and Councillor Jim Roberts (East Ayrshire Council).
- Apologies: Councillors Tom Cook, John McGhee and Douglas Reid (all East Ayrshire Council).
- Attending: Donald Gillies, Director – Place (South Ayrshire Council); Paul Whip, Group Finance Manager (East Ayrshire Council); Stewart Turner, Head of Roads, and Kevin Braidwood, Operations Manager (both Ayrshire Roads Alliance); and Eillen Wyllie, Committee Services Officer (South Ayrshire Council).

1. Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of the Joint Committee's Order No. 25 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

AYRSHIRE ROADS ALLIANCE

2. Update on Performance Scorecard.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 18 January 2019 by the Head of Roads, Ayrshire Roads Alliance (ARA), advising of the progress made to date against the Performance Scorecard.

The Head of Roads advised that the performance direction against street lighting should actually be marked green and reported that, since this report had been issued, the average days lost per employee had reduced from 0.96 days per period to 0.61 days per period.

A question was asked in relation to the number of safety inspections completed within the timescales and the Head of Roads advised that inspections were programmed for the full year and targeted against each month therefore the number of inspections undertaken varied from month to month. The Operations Manager highlighted though that these were 100% complete for each month to date.

In response to a question relating to bridge inspections, the Head of Roads explained the course of action undertaken for each authority and also explained the differences and timeframes for each category of bridge inspection. It was noted that the use of drone technology to undertake bridge inspections was being investigated.

A discussion took place in relation to Christmas light installations within South Ayrshire and it was noted that discussions were taking place with community groups via the Council's Service Lead - Corporate Planning and Improvement so that a programme of installations could be co-ordinated for Switch-on events leading up to Christmas 2019. Also, a guidance note had been circulated to community groups that detailed the grants process for replacement lights. In response to a question regarding Christmas lights, it was noted that the Roads Alliance charged the business community to install the lights but not community groups. The Alliance did not have the facility to store the lights for groups.

The Joint Committee, having otherwise noted the content of the report

Decided:

- (1) to note the performance scorecard presented in this report; and
- (2) to continue to receive performance scorecard updates.

3. Risk Report and Register.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 18 January 2019 by the Head of Roads, Ayrshire Roads Alliance, advising of the management of risk associated with the Ayrshire Roads Alliance.

Following various questions by Members of the Joint Committee, the Officers responded as follows:-

- (1) in relation to the risk category associated with benefits realisation and whether a breakdown of savings and how these had been achieved could be provided, it was noted that a report would be submitted to the next meeting showing savings and efficiencies as a result of ARA arrangements;
- (2) in terms of flooding risks, it was noted that ARA had progressed very well with flooding mitigations schemes which were contained within a Flood Risk Management Plan. The Head of Roads commented that the River Irvine Study Work is currently being reviewed and also added that approved schemes accepted by the Scottish Government were given 80% funding costs. It was noted that once a scheme was approved, it remained on the Plan; and
- (3) in terms of the shorelines in South Ayrshire and potential risk of storms, it was noted that the Operations Manager would be informing South Ayrshire Elected Members of the Shoreline Management Plans in the very near future.

A discussion took place in relation to the potentials risks associated with the United Kingdom leaving the European Union on 29 March 2019 and possible impact on supply chains, employees and ports and whether this should be identified as a risk. It was noted that risk management had already been identified in the risk categories associated with financial and contractual agreements as detailed within the Risk Register. However, at this moment in time, there was uncertainty around the outcomes of leaving the European Union although the Head of Roads confirmed that employee checks had been undertaken. It was noted that risks and mitigations could be discussed at the next meeting of the Joint Committee on 25 April 2019 as well as noting the expectation that this would be captured at the corporate level of both authorities.

The Joint Committee, having otherwise noted the content of the report

Decided:

- (a) to note the risk register presented in the report;
- (b) to continue to receive updates on progress; and
- (c) to note that a report providing further detail on savings and efficiencies as a result of ARA arrangements would be submitted to the next meeting of the Joint Committee on 25 April 2019.

4. Revenue Financial Monitoring Report.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of February 2019 by the Depute Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer, Economy and Skills, East Ayrshire Council, providing an update on the revenue budgeting monitoring position for the year to 6 January 2019 for the Ayrshire Roads Alliance.

Various comments were made in relation to:- potential savings; local delivery overspends in both areas; ongoing planned maintenance on potholes; reporting defects online; and the forthcoming introduction of WDM technology and potential benefits of public reporting.

A discussion took place in relation to 'Track My Gritter' and the trialling of 'Alexa' and similar technology in order to support communities. The Operations Manager advised that he would set up demonstrations on the use of this technology at the forthcoming Cold Comfort presentations taking place in February 2019. It was also noted that these new approaches were widely publicised via press releases as well as through schools and community councils.

In response to a question in relation to advertising and filling operative vacancies, the Head of Roads and the Operations Manager commented on the difficulties of retaining staff due to the wages paid in the private sector for similar jobs. It was noted that this situation would be reviewed especially with the introduction of new technology.

The Joint Committee, having otherwise noted the content of the report

Decided:

- (1) to note the financial management position of the Ayrshire Roads Alliance; and
- (2) to request a further financial update at the next meeting of the Joint Committee.

5. Roadworks Programme 2018/19.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 22 January 2019 by the Head of Roads, Ayrshire Roads Alliance, advising of the progress being made with the road improvement programmes within East Ayrshire and South Ayrshire for financial year 2018-2019.

The Operations Manager provided an update in relation to the progress being made with the 20mph schemes for rural villages in South Ayrshire. A discussion took place in relation to consultation processes and community buy-in. Also, a speed activated approach was a less expensive option rather than spending monies on costly designs / schemes and that ARA had undertaken extensive work in this although it was difficult to find a balance to suit everyone. It was noted that the approach to undertaking 20mph schemes would be reviewed going forward.

A discussion took place in relation to LED replacement programmes. Also discussed was the replacement of lighting columns and cabling and the Operations Manager gave a brief overview and advised that a programme was in place. It was noted that a report was being submitted to a forthcoming meeting of South Ayrshire Council's Leadership Panel which would contain details of this programme. In relation to the LED programme, it was noted that a Project Manager was now in post and a report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Joint Committee providing information on the current position with the programme. In terms of public and private utility companies, it was noted that ARA had no control over the relevant company's timeframes to repair faults, however, such issues would be raised at the various road forums.

In relation to the introduction of the Transport (Scotland) Bill, the impact on parking charges for businesses was unknown as this point in time and it would be for local authorities to decide on the course of action.

Comments were made about damage to some roads and properties adjacent to bus routes and the Operations Manager provided an update on this matter.

Various questions were raised by Members of the Joint Committee and the Head of Roads advised that he would provide an update in due course to relevant members.

The Joint Committee, having otherwise noted the content of the report

Decided: to note the Ayrshire Roads Alliance works progress for 2018/19 and that a report in relation to the LED replacement programme would be submitted to the next meeting on 25 April 2019.

The meeting ended at 11.20 a.m.