

AYRSHIRE SHARED SERVICES JOINT COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,
on 8 November 2019 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Ian Cochrane (Chair), Bob Pollock, Alec Clark and Philip Saxton (all South Ayrshire Council); and Councillors Tom Cook, Douglas Reid and Jim Roberts (all East Ayrshire Council).

Apology: Councillor John McGhee (East Ayrshire Council).

Attending: Donald Gillies – Director - Place (South Ayrshire Council); Stewart Turner, Head of Roads; Kevin Braidwood, Operations Manager (both Ayrshire Roads Alliance); and Eillen Wyllie, Committee Services Officer (South Ayrshire Council).

Opening remarks.

The Head of Roads advised of the forthcoming APSE Awards taking place at Blackpool during December. He stated that Ayrshire Roads Alliance had been nominated for three awards (two for South Ayrshire Council and one for East Ayrshire Council) with the validation process taking place next week. He commented on the teamwork involved in improving performance to get to this selection stage. The Committee agreed that this was great news and wished the Service well at the forthcoming event.

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.

2. Minutes of previous meeting.

The Minutes of 29 August 2019 ([issued](#)) were submitted and approved.

Matters arising:-

(1) Proposed Response to the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee on the Pre-budget / Financial Scrutiny on Roads Maintenance.

The Head of Roads provided feedback from the meeting of the above Committee on 2 October 2019. He said that local authorities might see the availability of more funds and hopefully these would not be ring-fenced. It was noted that a Councillor at that Committee meeting had made such a point.

A discussion took place in relation to the disadvantages of ring-fencing funds.

Decided: that the Chair, on behalf of the Committee, would write to the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee expressing that this Committee also considered that any additional funds should not be ring-fenced.

(2) National Transport Strategy.

The Head of Roads advised that the draft responses to the National Transport Strategy had been formally approved at recent meetings of both East Ayrshire and South Ayrshire Councils and, thereafter, the consultation responses had been submitted to the Scottish Government prior to 23 October 2019 deadline.

Decided: to note that, following the consultation deadline and consideration of the feedback, a Delivery Plan would be circulated by the Scottish Government in due course.

3. Roadworks Programme 2019/20.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 23 October 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 2019-20.

The Operations Manager highlighted the improvement figures for East Ayrshire and South Ayrshire Council's respective SRMCS survey results.

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 on matters raised.

In relation to the following questions asked by Members, it was noted that:-

- the lighting team were investigating concerns across both Council areas in respect of the LED programme and safety concerns with dark areas within some localities. Site inspections were to be undertaken;
- the tender relating to the works for the sheet piling at Girvan Harbour was now going out to tender on the open market rather than through the Framework; and
- costings and the specific location associated with the Loans / Barassie path would be established and the relevant Ward Councillors advised.

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

Decided: to note the Ayrshire Roads Alliance work progress for 2019/20.

4. Update on Performance Scorecard.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 23 October 2019 by the Head of Roads, Ayrshire Roads Alliance, advising of the progress made to date against the Performance Scorecard.

In relation to the improved performance on average days lost per employee, a question was asked if there were areas of good practice that could be rolled out to other council sections to improve attendance rates. The Head of Roads advised of the protocol and policies in place to monitor absence and support employees to return to work.

Various questions were asked by Members and answers provided by Officers in relation to:-

- parking charges and what type of appeals were submitted and how many appeals were successful. The Head of Roads provided information on the types of appeals such as a blue badge holder forgetting to display their blue badge. He added that some appeals were successful;
- in relation to increases in those seriously injured and slightly injured resulting from road traffic accidents, the Head of Roads commented on the range of actions which could be taken in conjunction with discussion with Police Scotland following accidents. It was noted that types of actions could be through educational, enforcement, engagement and engineering means. It was also noted that speed was a factor on some occasions. In relation to particular stretches of road where there had been accidents, the Alliance would review the potential to remove roadside hazards and report back to the relevant Ward Councillors;
- whether traffic enforcement officers monitored the car park at Crosshouse Hospital and, if so, had any fines been issued. The Head of Roads advised that the capacity was there to undertake monitoring and he would investigate if any fines had been issued and feedback accordingly; and
- the availability of an online safe driving module and whether this would be useful to the Alliance. It was noted that the Head of Roads would review the content and, if suitable, this would be uploaded onto the ARA website and advertised via twitter.

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 the performance scorecard updates.

5. Risk Report and Register.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 22 October 2019 by the Head of Roads, Ayrshire Roads Alliance advising the Joint Committee of the management of risk associated with the Ayrshire Roads Alliance.

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

Decided:

- (1) to note the risk register presented with the report; and
- (2) to continue to receive updates on progress.

6. Closing remarks.

Councillor Cook provided information from a recent meeting he attended involving COSLA and Police Conveners in relation to temporary traffic orders required for events including parades and marches. It was noted that Police Scotland had previously proposed that all such events would need to be served by temporary traffic orders. However, Police Scotland had agreed now that they would continue to manage such events without the need to serve such orders. It was noted that there would still be a need for the larger events to be served by temporary traffic orders. However, this was Police Scotland reverting to the previous position that existed and this position was fully supported by all Councils in Scotland.

The meeting ended at 11.00 a.m.