

PARTNERSHIPS PANEL.

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,
on 12 June 2019 at 10.00 a.m.

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

Apology: Councillor Arthur Spurling.

Attending: D. Gillies, Director – Place; W. Carlaw, Service Lead - Democratic Governance; K. Anderson, Service Lead – Corporate and Housing Policy; S. Turner, Head of Roads; and Kevin Braidwood, Operations Manager, Ayrshire Roads Alliance; Jim Scott, Area Manager; and Ian McMeekin, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service; 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 17 April 2019 ([issued](#)) were submitted and approved, moved by Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Davis.

3. Action Plan and Work Programme.

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

The Director – Place advised that there were two outstanding actions and the intention was to circulate updates to members prior to Summer recess. It was also noted that the work programme would be updated as and when required.

A Member of the Panel suggested that an estimated completion date could be inserted within the action log against any outstanding actions. It was noted that, generally, actions were issued timeously, however this matter would be revisited if delays with action updates recurred.

The Panel

Decided: to note the action log and work programme.

4. Ayrshire Roads Alliance Service Plan 2019/20 and Performance Report 2018/19.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 5 June 2019 by the Director – Place presenting the Ayrshire Roads Alliance Service Plan for 2019/20 and the Performance Report for 2018/19.

In response to a query from a Member of the Panel in relation to publicising good news stories such as the recent success of the apprentices, the Head of Roads, Ayrshire Roads Alliance (ARA) outlined the various media platforms used to promote news. In terms of the apprentices, it was noted that a photo opportunity was arranged prior to the forthcoming Ayrshire Shared Services Joint Committee meeting and this would be circulated via East and South Ayrshire Councils publicity routes.

The Head of Roads, ARA referred to a question raised by a member in relation to non-revenue budget comparisons between East and South Ayrshire Councils. He provided reasons for the difference in both budgets including a couple of capital schemes for East Ayrshire Council such as:- SPT monies for road realignment works at Glenbuck; and Scottish Government funds for flood prevention in New Cumnock. SPT were also undertaking bus station improvements within East Ayrshire at Kilmarnock and Cumnock as these were owned by East Ayrshire Council. In relation to Ayr Bus station, it was noted that this was owned by Stagecoach and quarterly meetings took place with Stagecoach, SPT and ARA for ongoing discussions. It was noted that the Operations Manager, ARA routinely made applications to the Scottish Timber Transport Group for funding.

A question was raised in relation to the Ayrshire Growth Deal – Transport Projects and the Head of Roads, ARA provided an updated on a number of indicative projects which would be assessed via the Regional Transport Appraisal process. He commented that there was an aim to reduce the number of cars on roads and that the new Strategic Transport Projects Review to be published by 2021 would include all modes of travel. He also commented on the consultation process and the work being done by the A77 task group in terms of the case being made for roads improvements on that trunk road.

In response to a question relating to the percentage of A class roads within South Ayrshire which should be considered for maintenance, the Operations Manager commented on the scoring matrix used to determine road improvements. He also advised that most rural roads in South Ayrshire were high speed roads and Timber transport monies were also available to make improvements. It was noted that A class roads would be targeted in the coming years.

In relation to LED lighting works, the Head of Roads explained that for accounting purposes both authorities dealt with this in different ways i.e. East Ayrshire (revenue budget) and South Ayrshire (capital funding).

A question was asked in relation to fleet rationalisation and the Operations Manager commented on the optimisation of the fleet with vehicles removed if surplus to requirement.

In relation to safety issues at the A77 Whitletts roundabout, the Head of Roads advised that if there were any concerns from members then he would forward these to Scotland TranServ as it had responsibility for this trunk road. It was noted that the A77 consultation process currently underway could highlight potential improvements.

Questions were asked regarding the 20mph schemes within villages and the Operations Manager provided an update on these 11 schemes and project designs as well as community involvement.

The Panel

Decided: to note

- (1) the Ayrshire Roads Alliance Service Plan for 2019/20 contained in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (2) that regular progress updates would be provided to the Ayrshire Shared Service Joint Committee; and
- (3) the performance reports for 2018/19 as detailed within Appendices 2 and 3 of the report.

5. Local Performance Report: Scottish Fire and Rescue.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 5 June 2019 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director – People providing information about the year-end performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) in South Ayrshire.

The Chair welcomed Jim Scott, Area Manager and introduced his successor Ian McMeekin who would be taking up post in the very near future. The Chair also referred to the forthcoming retirement of Jim Scott and, on behalf of the Panel, wished him well.

Thereon, the Area Manager, having thanked the Panel for their good wishes, 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 in relation to road traffic collisions and how frequently the SFRS met with Ayrshire Roads Alliance (ARA). The Area Manager responded that the organisation met with a range of road safety groups although the service did not attend all road accidents. He would look at engagement with ARA colleagues and commented on wider partnership working. He advised that partners notified the SFRS of accidents as well as the SFRS providing assistance to partners as part of the broader 'safe and well' agenda.

In relation to garden fires, the Area Manager commented on the risk of fire spread as well as the neighbourhood annoyance factor. In terms of grass fires, the Area Manager commented on the significant callout for Loch Doon in East Ayrshire involving a number of appliances and firefighters from across East and South Ayrshire. He also commented on deliberate fire setting within public litterbins with these then being intentionally moved resulting in parked cars catching fire and the measures being implemented to reduce this risk. Where young people were involved, it was noted that intelligence was shared with colleagues from Police Scotland and as part of an educational approach, engagement was undertaken within schools highlighting the dangers of deliberate fire setting.

In terms of callouts to educational establishments, the Director - Place advised of possible reasons for callouts such as a new staff member, the need to remain vigilante and working with SFRS to mitigate against unwanted fire alarm signals. The Area Manager referred to the human element associated with unwanted fire alarm signals and that the attending officer would investigate reasons if there were repeat callouts from the same premises as part of the fire safety check. It was noted that a move to early warning often resulted in an increase in unwanted callouts for various reasons, however, the installation of alarms was integral to fire safety. In response to a further question, the Director – Place commented on the types of scenarios, the appropriate action to be taken and use of technology depending on whether it was an unwanted fire alarm or a risk of fire.

In relation to whether community alarms could be linked to the smoke alarm system, the Director – Place advised that he would investigate this idea with the Health and Social Care Partnership and South Ayrshire Monitoring Station. It was noted that this might also depend on the type of tenure in place as to whether a linkage was possible.

A question was asked in relation to the use of sprinkler systems and it was noted that a sprinkler was a reaction to fire but there was also an emphasis on prevention. However, the value of sprinkler systems was well documented.

In relation to whether there was a particular pattern emerging regarding callouts, such as at specific times of the year so that targeted interventions could be put in place, the Area Manager commented on a few recognised patterns such as office premises would predominately be daytime Monday to Friday; deliberate fire setting of grass would take place in dry weather; and domestic fires could involve a cooking element around teatime. Apart from these examples, there were no emerging trends associated with fire. It was noted that in terms of individuals hoarding items within their homes, this posed a risk as there was often a link between hoarding and mental health. This situation involved partnership working where it was known that the individual was vulnerable.

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 2018/19 year-end performance report of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in South Ayrshire

Decided: to note the report.

6. Scottish Fire and Rescue – Draft Strategic Plan 2019-22.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 5 June 2019 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director – People requesting comments on the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service’s (SFRS) Draft Strategic Plan for 2019-22 and advising that the consultation process would run from 9 May until 18 July 2019.

The Chair welcomed the Service Lead – Corporate and Housing Policy to his first meeting of this Panel. Thereon, the Service Lead – Corporate and Housing Policy proceeded to introduce the report and handed over to Mr Ian McMeekin.

Mr. McMeekin took the opportunity to say that he was looking forward to commencing in his new role and provided the Panel with some background information.

Thereon, he gave a presentation on the Draft Strategic Plan for 2019-22 and outlined the purpose, four outcomes and the values of the SFRS. Also, he highlighted the timeframes relating to the consultation exercise with the Strategic Plan due to being published in October 2019. He welcomed views from Panel Members prior to the deadline.

A question was asked in relation to issues during the winter weather and summer months such as flooding and grass fires. Mr McMeekin commented on preparations to deal with these types of issues with the service being shaped to deal with climate change.

In relation to those living with dementia, a question was asked about awareness training for officers. The Area Manager commented on the adjustments made if there was prior knowledge of an individual living with dementia. He also mentioned awareness training for dementia as well as for mental health issues. In terms of data sharing between partners relating to vulnerable people it was asked whether this was difficult due to GDPR. It was noted that risk of life took precedence and that data sharing regarding vulnerable individuals would be discussed with colleagues from the Health and Social Care Partnership. Members of the Panel would be updated on this matter.

A question was asked about equipment and it was noted that equipment and vehicles were reviewed and that sometimes it was a balance between staff numbers and vehicles. The use of electric vehicles was also being reviewed.

In terms of community engagement, it was noted that the SFRS did not routinely attend community council meetings as they were an operational service however, if an officer was invited to a community council meeting for a specific issue then arrangements could be made to attend where possible. It was noted that it would be good if an officer could attend from an educational aspect and it was noted that engagement opportunities would be reviewed.

A discussion took place in relation to the consultation exercise on the strategic plan and Panel members were encouraged to respond.

In terms of staffing, the Area Manager outlined the operating model and recruitment exercises based on the current age profile and forecast of who was leaving the service. The recruitment process involved holding events to encourage applications with positive action schemes in place to support recruitment.

The Panel, having scrutinised the SFRS's Draft Strategic Plan 2019-22

Decided: to note the report and the consultation deadline.

The meeting ended at 12 noon