

PARTNERSHIPS PANEL.

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,
on 17 April 2019 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, Service Lead - Democratic Governance; Chief Superintendent M. Hargreaves and Chief Inspector D. Frew, Police Scotland; S. Turner, Head of Roads and K. Braidwood, Operations Manager, Ayrshire Roads Alliance; J. Binning, Principal Policy Officer, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport; 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 6 February 2019 ([issued](#)) were submitted and approved.

3. Action Log and Work Programme.

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

The Director – Place commented that there were three outstanding action points and that updates would be circulated as soon as possible. In terms of the Work Programme, it was noted that this would be developed in due course and in conjunction with the Chair.

The Chair referred to correspondence from Jim Scott, Area Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue intimating his forthcoming retiral from the service.

Decided: to note the action log and work programme.

4. Local Performance Report: Police Scotland

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 9 April 2019 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director – People providing information about the performance of Police Scotland within South Ayrshire during the period April 2018 to February 2019.

The Chair welcomed Chief Superintendent Mark Hargreaves and Chief Inspector Derek Frew to the meeting. The Chief Superintendent referred to the performance summary data and highlighted a number of statistics contained within the report and a breakdown of what this data consisted of for the reporting period from 1 April 2018 to 28 February 2019. He commented that the Contact Assessment Model was currently being piloted in Lanarkshire and, depending on the outcome of this pilot, there were plans to introduce this model in South Ayrshire in November 2019. It was noted that this model was a process through which first point of service contacts from the public were assessed and police assets allocated to respond.

The Chief Inspector provided a further breakdown in relation to the data and reported that there were no real standouts or discernible patterns in relation to crime within South Ayrshire. He commented on the sharing of indecent images on social media and of the multi-agency working in relation to what inputs could be implemented to discourage the sharing of these types of images between young people under 16 years of age. He also referred to case studies contained within the report and the role of School Campus Police Officers and the Police Scotland Young Volunteers.

Various questions were asked by Members of the Panel and responses were provided by the Chief Superintendent and the Chief Inspector as follows:-

- (1) in relation to whether charges had been brought for the four attempted murders within South Ayrshire, it was noted that there was one outstanding case;
- (2) in respect of an increase in housebreaking, it was noted that Police Scotland continued to work to identify those responsible. In terms of house breaking, most instances were a result of overcoming the security of the premises. Also, it was noted that this type of crime was not considered opportunistic since the perpetrators were actively seeking to housebreak. The Chief Superintendent provided an example of an opportunistic crime such as stealing possessions from a vehicle especially if such items were in open view;
- (3) in relation to the recent Ayr Races event, a brief overview was provided in respect of the number of resources deployed for during the day in Ayr Town Centre and also to assist with car parking. In the evening, officers were concerned with the level of drunkenness and anti-social behaviour although no arrests were made and, as yet, there were no reports of any specific issues;
- (4) in terms of the warmer weather approaching, it was noted that officers were aware of previous events on the local beaches and plans were being developed as part of the Safer Shores approach involving a number of partner organisations with resources secured to deal with any incidents. It was noted that other forthcoming events had also been factored into resource planning;
- (5) in relation to anti-bullying, parental responsibility and the role of the School Campus Police Officers, it was noted that work was undertaken within the schools with these officers around the concept of 'how to be a good citizen'. This approach was also applied to instances of hate crime perpetrated by young people. In terms of why a particular child / young person would participate in such problematic behaviour, the 'Team around the Child' approach involving multi-agency working with the family was used to try and better understand the reasons behind this behaviour. It was noted that the Police Scotland Youth Volunteers could have a positive effect on their peers although it was not the role of these volunteers to challenge peer behaviours as this could impact on their own safety;
- (6) in terms of social media platforms, crimes of a sexual nature and self-harming, a question was asked as to what parents and schools could do to educate children and young people on the safe use of these platforms. The Chief Superintendent acknowledged that this was difficult as there were benefits and dangers associated with social media. He advised of guidance on the Police Scotland website. The Chief Inspector commented on a forthcoming meeting with children's services where these issues would be discussed and that the safe use of social media would be a focus in the new school term;

- (7) a question was asked in relation to the position with non-reported crime and how this impacted on the data. Although this was difficult to predict, the Chief Superintendent emphasised that there was a focus on communication and engagement to encourage the reporting of crime and crime would always be investigated. He added that the nature of crime had changed over the years and there were sufficient resources to cover current crime levels with access to specialist units as and when required; and
- (8) in relation to the term 'trauma informed', the Chief Superintendent advised that this was more about an approach that was undertaken rather than about reportable outcomes. It was suggested that any case studies in this regard could perhaps demonstrate the effectiveness of this approach.

A Member of the Panel commended the Police Scotland Young Volunteers for work which had been undertaken in one of the local communities.

The Panel, having scrutinised the 2018/19 year end performance of Police Scotland in South Ayrshire

Decided: to note the report.

5. Strathclyde Partnership for Transport – Performance Report

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 10 April 2019 by the Director – Place outlining the work of 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 Mr Binning, Principal Policy Officer to the meeting. The Principal Policy Officer provided an overview of transport outcomes and gave an update on services as well as the level of investment relating to South Ayrshire in conjunction with partners. He also advised of the current status of the consultation process for the Regional Transport Strategy and welcomed any views from members in this regard.

Thereon, various questions were asked by Members of the Panel and responses provided as follows:-

- (1) in relation to the bus infrastructure and route changes in and around Ayr and Prestwick, the Principal Policy Officer commented on the input from SPT as part of a bus stakeholder group and it was noted that SPT worked to make the process more robust. He advised though that it was the responsibility of bus operators to consult and inform on route changes although he felt that bus operators should also engage with relevant parties. The introduction of the forthcoming Transport Bill would place greater emphasis on partnership working with a requirement for bus operators to be more aware of their responsibilities. The Principal Policy Officer indicated that he would add these comments into the Regional Transport Strategy consultation process;
- (2) in respect of the current status of the bus station at Ayr and whether there were plans for development as had been previously discussed, the Principal Policy Officer advised that this particular station was owned by Stagecoach. He added that where SPT owned a station then there was scope for development. He would approach Stagecoach to see what the current position was in terms of any potential development;

- (3) in terms of investment and capital projects within South Ayrshire compared to East and North Ayrshire areas, the Head of Roads, Ayrshire Roads Alliance provided an explanation and examples of investment. It was noted that the Head of Roads would provide a breakdown covering the past five years of projects and level of investment within South Ayrshire; and
- (4) a discussion took place in relation to park and ride initiatives including the previous proposal for one at Monkton. It was noted that an update would be provided in relation to park and ride initiatives in general for South Ayrshire and also in respect of any proposals for Monkton.

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

Decided: to note the activities within South Ayrshire.

The meeting ended at 11.45 a.m.