

SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL.

Minutes of a remote webcast meeting
on 7 October 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

Present Councillors Helen Moonie (Provost), Laura Brennan-Whitefield, Andy Campbell, Douglas Campbell, Iain Campbell, Ian Cavana, Alec Clark, Ian Cochrane, Brian Connolly, Chris Cullen, Ian Davis, Julie Dettbarn, Martin Dowey, Ian Fitzsimmons, William Grant, Peter Henderson, Hugh Hunter, Mary Kilpatrick, Lee Lyons, Craig Mackay, Derek McCabe, Brian McGinley, Bob Pollock, Philip Saxton, Arthur Spurling and Margaret Toner.

Apologies: Councillors Siobhian Brown and Peter Convery.

Attending: E. Howat, Chief Executive; D. Gillies, Director – Place; C. Caves, Head of Legal, HR and Regulatory Services; T. Baulk, Head of Finance and ICT; J. McClure, Committee Services Lead Officer; A. Gibson, Committee Services Officer; and C. McCallum, Committee Services Assistant.

1. Provost.

The Provost

- (1) welcomed everyone to the meeting;
- (2) intimated that apologies had been received from Councillors Siobhian Brown and Peter Convery;
- (3) outlined the procedures for conducting this meeting and advised that this meeting would be broadcast live; and
- (4) advised that, with the agreement of the Council, the electronic voting system would be utilised. The Council so concurred.

2. Sederunt and Declarations of Interest.

The Chief Executive called the Sederunt for the meeting and having called the roll, confirmed that there were no declarations of interest by Members of the Council in terms of Council Standing Order No. 17 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

3. Minutes of previous meetings of Council and Panels.**(1) Minutes of previous meeting of Council.**

The Minutes of [South Ayrshire Council of 24 June 2021](#) and [South Ayrshire Council \(Special\) of 2 September 2021](#) (issued) were authorised to be signed as a correct record.

(2) Minutes of previous meetings of Panels.

The Minutes of the undernoted Panels were submitted for information:-

- (i) Audit and Governance Panel of [2 June](#), [22 June](#), [29 June \(Special\)](#) and [1 September 2021](#);
- (ii) Leadership Panel of [15 June](#) and [24 August 2021](#).

In accordance with the Scheme of Delegation and Standing Orders for Meetings, Councillor Henderson, seconded by Councillor McGinley, moved the recommendations as contained in the 'C' paragraph of the Leadership Panel Minutes of 24 August 2021 entitled "Treasury Management Annual Report 2020/21" ([copy of minute excerpt herewith](#)).

The Council

Decided: to agree the terms of the 'C' paragraph.

- (iii) Local Review Body of [30 March](#), [11 May](#), [1 June](#), [22 June](#) and [17 August 2021](#).
- (iv) Partnerships Panel of [18 November 2020](#), [21 April](#) and [16 June 2021](#).
- (v) Regulatory Panel – Licensing of [27 May](#), [23 June](#) and [26 August 2021](#).
- (vi) Regulatory Panel – Planning of [10 June](#), [23 June](#) and [13 July \(Special\)](#).
- (vii) Service and Performance Panel of [8 June](#) and [17 August 2021](#).

4. Platinum Jubilee Civic Honours Competition.

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 29 September 2021 by the Chief Executive seeking approval to develop a bid for City Status.

Councillor Henderson, seconded by Councillor McGinley moved the recommendations within the report.

Questions were raised by Members in relation to:-

- (1) the area which this bid would cover, whether it was the whole of South Ayrshire or a particular town; and the Chief Executive advised that this would be a matter for the Member/Officer Working Group to consider;
- (2) the benefits to the people of South Ayrshire if City Status was awarded; and the Chief Executive outlined that this was an opportunity to promote South Ayrshire and everything good about it;
- (3) a previous submission for city status and whether the information gathered could be used for this submission; and the Chief Executive advised that the information previously gathered was currently being sought and would be used, if possible; and
- (4) the costs of submitting this bid; and the Chief Executive advised that the process for this bid had been simplified and Councils were not required to spend significant amounts in submitting their bid; and that photographs for the bid would be the only financial outlay which could be dealt with, within existing resources.

The Council

Decided:

- (a) to approve the development of a City Status Bid;
- (b) to approve the creation of a short-term Member/Officer Working Group to oversee the development of the bid;
- (c) to nominate and appoint four Councillors on a cross-party basis to be members of the short-term Working Group, subsequently agreed as Councillors Ian Cavana, Brian Connolly, William Grant and Hugh Hunter, , and agree that the Working Group be authorised to appoint a Chair of the Group from amongst its members; and
- (d) to agree that the Member/Officer Working Group develop a City Status Bid for approval by the Leadership Panel at its meeting of 23 November 2021.

5. Representation on Outside Bodies.

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 29 September 2021 by the Head of Legal, HR and Regulatory Services seeking approval to make an amendment to the list of Outside Bodies.

Councillor Henderson, seconded by Councillor McGinley moved the recommendations within the report.

Questions were raised by Members in relation to:-

- (1) whether the work being carried out by this Body would be reported back to Council; and the Director – Place advised that the work undertaken would be reported through the Partnerships Panel and through the Elected Members Bulletin;
- (2) paragraph 3.3 of the report when the inclusion of representatives from key public bodies had not included the University of the West of Scotland and whether this was deliberate; and the Director – Place advised that this was not a deliberate omission and that other partners would also be joining this Community Interest Company (CIC) and become involved;
- (3) whether under-represented groups would be included in the representation of this CIC; and the Director – Place advised that there would be an increasingly wider representation with representatives from all sectors being encouraged to join;
- (4) the involvement of the Council’s Education Directorate in this exciting innovation as the involvement of Ayrshire College and Strathclyde University regarding recycling, sustainability and technology would bring key jobs to South Ayrshire and that this should also be embedded into schools; and the Director – Place advised that a key arm of Ayrshire Growth Deal was a skills development programme which worked on a pan-Ayrshire basis and that upskilling of young people through the secondary tertiary education network was a key element to give young people a pathway into this type of career; and that the education sector in South Ayrshire would be joined into this area of work; and

- (5) whether the work of this Outside Body was part of the overarching transformation movement in terms of economic development, skills development, and building jobs in the local community; and that Members should consider whether this work might also be reported into a more strategic framework to enable the benefits, synergy and inclusive work to be aggregated across a range of fronts; and the Head of Legal, HR and Regulatory Services advised that this would require the Motion being amended and an additional recommendation added regarding the consideration of the reporting request for the programme and its inclusion within the Transformation Programme; and reporting back to Leadership Panel on this matter.

Councillor Henderson as mover of the Motion agreed to the change to his Motion as outlined at (5) above, as requested by Councillor McGinley, to incorporate this recommendation into the motion.

Comments were made by members in relation to:-

- (a) this CIC having the potential to bring economic benefit to the area and that this was an excellent example of partnership working between the stakeholders; and
- (b) the many local businesses involved in this CIC; the training courses being developed and being run; and opportunities for South Ayrshire and the wider area.

The Council

Decided:

- (i) to approve the appointment of Calum McPhail, Co-ordinator, Economy and Regeneration, as the Council's representative on Skypath Aerospace Training Community Interest Company (CIC) (as Board member); and
- (ii) that officers should consider the reporting requirements for this CIC and its inclusion within the Transformation Programme and report back to Leadership Panel on this matter.

6. Live Webcasting of Meetings.

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 30 September 2021 by the Head of Legal, HR and Regulatory Services seeking approval for the live webcasting of further Panel meetings.

The Head of Legal, HR and Regulatory Services advised that, as the Licensing Board was a separate entity, it would consider live webcasting all Board meetings at its next meeting.

Councillor Henderson, seconded by Councillor McGinley moved the recommendations within the report.

Comments were made by Members in relation to the openness and transparency of meetings; how the public would now have access to all meetings and could view the decision making of the Council; that the availability of hybrid meetings was also advancing; and commending officers for the work undertaken in changing Standing Orders and in enabling these meetings to be webcast.

Questions were raised by Members in relation to:-

- (1) whether Members should have their cameras on during webcast meetings; and the Head of Legal, HR and Regulatory Services advised that it was recommended that Members switched their cameras on during Council and Panel meetings, however, this was not mandatory in terms of Standing Orders Relating to Meetings;
- (2) whether the South Ayrshire Integration Joint Board (IJB) would also be webcast; and the Head of Legal, HR and Regulatory Services advised that she had not received a request from the IJB to webcast its meetings, however, she would liaise with officers of the IJB in relation to this and report back to Members;
- (3) whether the Ayrshire Shared Services Joint Committee would also be webcast; and the Head of Legal, HR and Regulatory Services advised that she would liaise with the Monitoring Officers of East and North Ayrshire Councils regarding this and report back to Members, however, each authority used different systems for carrying out remote meetings which may cause some difficulties; and
- (4) that, as the meetings of the IJB were currently available to view by requesting the link to the Microsoft Teams meeting, could this link be placed on the Council's website; and the Head of Legal, HR and Regulatory Services advised that she would liaise with officers from the IJB on this matter and report back to Members.

The Council, having welcomed the introduction of the webcasting of Council and Panel meetings,

Decided: to agree that officers arrange for the live webcasting of all meetings detailed in Appendix 1 via the Public-i platform from 8 October 2021.

7. Notice of Motion.

A Notice of Motion having been submitted in accordance with Council Standing Order No. 18, Councillor Craig Mackay, seconded by Councillor Brian McGinley, moved:-

“Council notes with concern legislation currently being enacted by the UK Government to introduce a photo identification requirement for voting at general elections. Council believes this requirement would disenfranchise those least likely to have acceptable photo ID, who are already likely to be the most marginalised and vulnerable communities.

Council acknowledges that voter fraud levels are very low, with only four convictions following the 2019 general election.

Council asserts that putting additional obstacles in the way of those who are already less likely to vote will serve only to disengage them further. Council therefore agrees:

- to respond to any consultation on photographic identification for voting with a clear position of opposition to such measures;

- that while acknowledging legislation may compel local authorities to administer and promote aspects of a photographic ID scheme (including provision of documentation to those who have no suitable ID), should this be enacted no additional council resources beyond what is legally required should be used;

- that the Leader of the Council write to the Minister for the Cabinet Office confirming South Ayrshire Council's objection to the legislation currently being enacted by the UK Government to introduce a photo identification requirement for voting at general elections.”

A full debate took place regarding the terms of the Motion, including various questions to the Mover of the Motion and Officers.

Point of Order

A point of order was raised regarding the number of questions raised by a Member and the Head of Legal, HR and Regulatory Services advised that, in terms of Standing Order No. 20.5, there was no limitation on the number of questions which could be raised by a Member.

Following a procedural question on Notices of Motion and how responses were reported to Members following an Officer or the Leader being requested to write to an organisation or individual on behalf of the Council, the Leader advised that he would submit any response received on this Motion from the Minister for the Cabinet Officer to all Members; and that previously the Chief Executive had issued any similar responses to the mover and seconder of the motion, following a request to write to an organisation or individual. The Head of Legal, HR and Regulatory Services further advised that she would ascertain if any responses had not been circulated from previous Notices of Motion and ensure that this was carried out.

Point of Order

A Member enquired if the electronic voting system would give Members the opportunity to abstain and the Head of Legal, HR and Regulatory Services outlined the procedure for voting and confirmed that Members would have the opportunity to abstain.

On a vote being taken by electronic means, 13 Members voted for the Motion, 11 voted against the Motion and 2 Members abstained.

The Council

Decided: to agree the terms of the Motion as outlined above.

8. Formal Question.

The Council noted that no formal questions had been submitted.

9. Closing Remarks.

The Provost thanked all in attendance for their contribution.

The meeting ended at 12 noon