

SERVICE AND PARTNERSHIPS PERFORMANCE PANEL

Minutes of hybrid webcast meeting on
14 May 2024 at 10.00 a.m.

Present
in County
Buildings: Councillors Philip Saxton (Chair), Gavin Scott and George Weir.

Present
Remotely: Councillors Ian Cochrane and Chris Cullen.

Apologies: Councillors Mark Dixon, Kenneth Bell and Mary Kilpatrick.

Attending
in County
Buildings: G. Hunter, Assistant Director – Communities; K. Dalrymple, Assistant Director – Housing and Operations; W. Carlaw, Service Lead – Democratic Governance; F. Ross, Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services; M. Greaves, Thriving Places, Co-ordinator – Economy and Regeneration; A. Cooke, Maybole Regeneration Lead Project Officer – Economy and Regeneration; A. Gibson, Committee Services Officer; C. McCallum, Clerical Assistant.

Chair's Remarks.

The Chair

- (1) welcomed everyone to the meeting; and
- (2) outlined the procedures for conducting this meeting and advised that this meeting would be broadcast live.

1. Sederunt and Declarations of Interest.

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

2. Minutes of previous meeting.

The Minutes of 16 April 2024 ([issued](#)) were submitted and approved.

3. **Action Log, Petition Update and Work Programme**

There was submitted an update of the Action Log, Petition Update and Work Programme ([issued](#)) for this Panel.

Having heard the Assistant Director – Communities speak in relation to the Action Log, Petition Update and Work Programme and having heard him

- (1) in relation to the Action Log, the “ERDF Business Programme” had ended, and that the new “Ambition Programme” had been launched and that that it was proposed to provide an update to the Service and Partnership Performance Panel in October 2024.
- (2) in relation to the Petition Update and the request to terminate a tenancy in Prestwick, the Chief Governance Officer had notified the lead petitioner of the rejection of the petition in line with Paragraph 3.1 of the Council’s Petition Protocol.

The Panel

Decided:

- (1) to agree the current position with regard to the Action Log; and
- (2) to note the current status of the Petition Update and Work Programme.

4. **Community Wealth Building Programme.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 1 May 2024 by the Director of Communities and Transformation providing updates on the Community Wealth Building (CWB) programme workplan and a summary of progress to date, which included a review of the current work plan.

A Member of the Panel commended the group for the variety and geographical spread of Community Wealth Building activities and additionally enquired into what proportion of CWB activities had been represented in Appendix 2 of the report. The Thriving Communities Coordinator – Economy and Regeneration advised it would not be possible to provide a percentage regarding this, however any Member would be welcome to discuss with him further following the meeting.

Having heard a Member of the Panel, who requested further information regarding Appendix 1 and the task name “Host a South Ayrshire Council and Supplier Development online event to raise awareness of the of the opportunity to strengthen local economies and support local supply chains through public contracts” and why small businesses could not apply for future contracts outwith the framework period, leaving them unable to tender until the next framework period. The Assistant Director – Communities advised the Council encouraged local businesses to apply through the Supplier Development Framework and provided information to businesses on how to do so. He further advised that the Member could speak to him at the conclusion of the meeting in this regard. Another Member raised the matter and it was noted again that if Members had concerns that local businesses had missed the framework, they should speak to him directly.

A Member of the Panel requested information on how the Community Benefit Wish List was monitored. He also enquired if entries on the Wish List would be carried forward to next year's list. The Assistant Director – Communities advised that all entries on the list were moving forward but if there were any matters Members wished added to the list they should advise him directly. He further advised that the Community Wealth Building Action Plan contained information of active projects funded by the shared prosperity fund resource.

The Panel

Decided:

- (1) to review progress and achievements in relation to CWB; and
- (2) to endorse the approaches and activities set out within the revised work plan.

5. Regeneration Capital Grant Fund – Update on Pinwherry and Pinmore and Maybole Stage 2 Applications.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 1 May 2024 by the Director of Communities and Transformation

- (1) providing an update on the progress of two Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF) applications;
- (2) advising that they were for the transformation of the former Pinwherry and Pinmore Primary school, in collaboration with Pinwherry and Pinmore Community Development Trust and the proposed redevelopment of Maybole New Stables Lane, in collaboration with Ayrshire Housing Association.

A Member of the Panel advised that the report stated that the completion date for the works at Pinwherry and Pinmore had been set for 26 April 2024 and enquired if the work had indeed been completed. The Maybole Regeneration Lead Project Officer, Economy and Regeneration advised that the project had not yet been completed and was three to four weeks behind schedule; and that an update would be provided by her to Panel Members in due course.

Having heard a Member of the Panel enquire as to what the schedule would be for the provision of updates regarding the ongoing RCGF projects, the Assistant Director – Communities advised that it was proposed to submit an update to this Panel in September 2024 to provide information on the success of the projects.

The Panel

Decided:

- (1) to note the successful outcomes of the Stage 2 applications in regard to Pinwherry and Pinmore, and Maybole New Stables Lane;
- (2) to note that Pinwherry and Pinmore Community Development Trust were progressing with the transformation of the former Pinwherry and Pinmore Primary School into a multi-purpose community facility;

- (3) to note that Ayrshire Housing Association were progressing the New Stables Lane redevelopment in Maybole New Stables Lane;
- (4) to note that the Council would monitor and oversee expenditure of RCGF funding received;
- (5) to note that the Assistant Director Communities would update the Panel on the progress of the projects and report back with an update on all the ongoing RCGF projects and continued due diligence; and
- (6) to otherwise note the contents of the report and support the approaches and activities set out therein.

6. Fleet Strategy 2021-2026 Progress Report.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 1 May 2024 by the Director of Housing, Operations and Development providing the annual review of progress in delivering the South Ayrshire Council Fleet Strategy 2021-2026.

A Member of the Panel enquired if the current South Ayrshire Council fleet vehicles were leased or owned. The Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services confirmed that there were two lease types currently used by SAC, namely a contract hire lease or a purchase lease.

Having heard a Member of the Panel seek clarification on terminology used within the report namely “grey fleet” and “peak shaving”, the Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services provided a definition of these terms.

A Member of the Panel enquired as to the implications that would arise financially if the Council failed to meet the targets to have all low emission vehicles. The Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services advised that as the targets were set by the Council, there were no financial penalties if the Council did not meet the 2025 Council target. It should be noted that costs would be significant to change the fleets larger vehicles to electric.

A Member of the Panel had noted in Action 1.1 that staff had requested to attend professional and technical seminars e.g. APSE, UK Logistics, over the past year. He suggested staff be given time to attend the relevant seminars due to the previous low attendance. The Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services reported that due to staff shortages there had been difficulty attending the training sessions and attendance had since improved. The Member of the Panel also enquired to Action 1.2 in Appendix 1 of the report regarding what data had been analysed and who had been responsible for the decision that the Property Maintenance fleet for housing repairs would not change to electric vehicles. It was confirmed that the Property Maintenance fleet included some electric vehicles and advised that the decision relating to the rest of the vehicles would be made in conjunction with each service.

Having heard a Member of the Panel request confirmation that the target to have all cars and vans ULEV by 2025 had since been changed to 2035 by the government. It was confirmed by the Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services that this was correct, however the Council continued to aim for 2025 to procure ultra-low emission vehicles. The Member of the Panel also enquired if there had been any funding opportunities to support the change to electric vehicles. The Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services stated that funding previously available from the Scottish Government had terminated.

The Panel

Decided:

- (1) to note the annual review of the South Ayrshire Council Fleet Strategy 2021- 2026; and
- (2) to agree that an annual review of the strategy be submitted to the Services and Partnerships Performance Panel.

7. Waste Strategy 2021-2031 Progress Report.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 1 May 2024 by the Director of Housing, Operations and Development providing the annual progress report of the Council's Waste Strategy from 2021 to 2031 as per the Action Plan.

A Member of the Panel enquired regarding segregated waste, namely garden and food, which had been queried by the public regarding the introduction of a collection fee for garden waste bins in South Ayrshire. The Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services advised the reason was economical and would not be financially suitable due to the extra costs incurred when processing food waste and garden waste together.

Having heard a Member of the Panel seek elaboration regarding the ambition for the Reuse Plan proposed under development, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, the Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services advised that the proposed plan would assist with less waste going to the landfill.

A Panel Member outlined that it may be helpful for the Council to consider commercial waste uplifts by those that currently use private contractors in a competitive market.

Further questions were raised by Members in relation to:-

- (1) the Waste Management and Ground Maintenance operatives collecting different use bins due to their remits. The Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services advised that this would be looked at with the aim to streamline the service;
- (2) the use of hand dryers to replace paper towels in Council premises to reduce waste. The Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services advised that this would be considered going forward;
- (3) the development of a Waste Engagement and Communications framework and enquiring when this would take place. The Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services advised that communications were ongoing internally and with commercial waste customers;
- (4) the success of South Ayrshire Council MyBins app; The Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services advised there had been no data available to present although positive feedback had been received; and
- (5) the work ongoing within schools regarding recycling education and littering initiatives. The Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services advised there had been two new Waste Awareness Staff employed by the Council who would be responsible for

visiting schools and referred to the mobile phone app to encourage the use of bins with the reward of points or possible prizes.

The Panel

Decided: to note the contents of the report.

The meeting ended at 11.00 a.m.