

## **SERVICE AND PARTNERSHIPS PERFORMANCE PANEL**

Minutes of hybrid webcast meeting on  
21 May 2025 at 10.00 a.m.

Present  
in County

Buildings: Councillors Chris Cullen (Chair) and George Weir.

Present

Remotely: Councillors Ian Cochrane, Mark Dixon and Brian McGinley.

Apologies: Councillors Kenneth Bell, Lee Lyons and Gavin Scott.

Attending  
in County

Buildings: M. Newall, Chief Executive; K. Braidwood, Director of Housing, Operations and Development; K. Anderson, Assistant Director – Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance; K. Dalrymple, Assistant Director – Housing and Operations; W. Carlaw, Service Lead – Democratic Governance; S. McCardie, Service Lead - Performance, Community Planning and Sustainability; F. Ross, Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services; T. Burns, Service Lead – Asset Management and Community Asset Transfer; R. Jamieson, Co-ordinator, Asset Management; A. Gibson, Committee Services Officer; and 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 22 April 2025 ([issued](#)) were submitted and approved.

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

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

The Assistant Director - Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance advised

- (1) that in relation to Action 1 regarding information requested from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, due to imminent changes to personnel within the Fire and Rescue Service, this action was not yet complete, but that he would ensure it was dealt with in the near future; and
- (2) that further entries had made to the Work Programme for 2025, taking account of a request at the last meeting of this Panel.

With regards to the entry in the Action Log relating to the request for information on Petitions in recent years being provided to Members, the Service Lead - Democratic Governance advised that ten petition requests had been received by this Council since 2020, with only one having met the necessary criteria. Having heard a Member advise of the need for those petitions which did not meet the criteria to still be dealt with appropriately by the Council to ensure a resolution, the Service Lead - Democratic Governance advised that this was indeed the case.

The Panel

#### **Decided:**

- (a) to agree the current position with regard to the Action Log; and
- (b) to otherwise note the current status of the Work Programme.

### 4. **Integrated Impact Assessment Update (2024/2025).**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 9 May 2025 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education providing details on the use of the Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) during 2024/2025.

Having heard a Member of the Panel, the Service Lead - Performance, Community Planning and Sustainability advised that there had had been a lot of work undertaken with the Oversight Working Group to reach the present position and that there had been a lot of time spent with the various Council Services to support them in comprising IIAs, with training sessions etc.

A Member of the Panel asked, if in future reports on this matter, there could be narrative around the graphs detailed in the Appendix of the report. The Service Lead - Performance, Community Planning and Sustainability advised that this would be done.

After a Panel Member raised the notion of uncertainty in IIAs and the reasons for this and how it would be monitored over time, the Service Lead - Performance, Community Planning and Sustainability advised that the officer would detail a mitigation on how the matter would be dealt with.

Having heard a Member of the Panel, it was noted that progress was still at an early stage and where negative impacts were recorded, there would be narrative on how the negative impacts could be tackled.

The Panel

**Decided:** to note the IIA (2024/2025) Performance Report, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

## 5. **Fleet Strategy 2021-2026 Progress Report.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 9 May 2025 by the Director of Housing, Operations and Development providing the annual review of progress in delivering the South Ayrshire Council Fleet Strategy 2021-2026.

Having heard a Member of the Panel, it was noted that the Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services would provide Members with details surrounding fleet numbers.

Following discussion on the targets that had been set for electric vehicles, it was noted that all small vehicles in the fleet had been converted to electric, subject to those with service needs.

A Member of the Panel enquired if the Council was satisfied at its approach to moving to an all-electric fleet and what was the strategy for the phased adoption. The Service Lead - Neighbourhood Services advised that the small vehicle fleet had been tackled in the first instance. It was noted that with regards to the heavy fleet, the move to hydrogen and electric powered vehicles would have significant cost implications to the Council.

After a Member of the Panel raised the issue of carbon accountancy and if this Council had any proposed measures to offset the carbon footprint, the Assistant Director – Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance advised that he would raise this matter with the appropriate Council officers.

It was noted that electric vehicles had cheaper running but had higher maintenance costs.

The Panel

**Decided:**

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

## 6. Transforming the Estate Update.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 9 May 2025 by the Director of Housing, Operations and Development providing an update on Transforming the Estate work programme.

Having heard the Service Lead - Asset Management and Community Asset Transfer, the Panel noted that there was a typographical error within Appendix 1 of the report.

Having heard a Member of the Panel, the Service Lead - Asset Management and Community Asset Transfer advised that the report to this Panel had been requested by Cabinet.

Having heard a Panel Member enquire as to the difference between key assets and operational assets, the Service Lead - Asset Management and Community Asset Transfer advised that operational assets were used by Council services and key assets were the Ayr Town Hall, as an example. Following further discussion, it was agreed that the Director of Housing, Operations and Development would respond to the Member directly on the feasibility of rental income to the Ayr Common Good Fund from the Low Green, Ayr.

There was discussion on the need for partnership working and the multi-use of assets with external partners. It was noted that this was constantly examined and that any opportunities for the Council and external partners to multi-use was always welcome.

A Member of the Panel raised the future of Prestwick Community Centre and the Service Lead - Asset Management and Community Asset Transfer advised that this was being examined.

There was discussion regarding cost savings that to date, had already been generated.

A Member of the Panel raised the issue of the former Ayr Academy being repurposed. The Service Lead - Asset Management and Community Asset Transfer advised that the space had been leased to a charity group at present.

The Panel

**Decided:** to note this report and to continue to commit to the proposals and principles contained within the Transforming the Estate work programme and as embedded with the approved 2024 Asset Management Plan (Land and Buildings).

The meeting ended at 10.55 a.m.