

SERVICE AND PARTNERSHIPS PERFORMANCE PANEL

Minutes of hybrid webcast meeting on
20 August 2025 at 10.00 a.m.

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

Apologies
Due to
Technical
Difficulties: Councillors Ian Cochrane and Lee Lyons.

Apologies: Councillors Kenneth Bell and Stephen Ferry.

Attending
in County
Buildings: K. Braidwood, Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development; K. Anderson, Assistant Director – Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance; G. Hunter, Assistant Director – Communities; K. Dalrymple, Assistant Director – Housing and Operations; C. Cox, Assistant Director – Planning and Development; W. Carlaw, Service Lead – Democratic Governance; S. McCardie, Service Lead - Performance, Community Planning and Sustainability; J. Tait, Service Lead – Thriving Communities; G. Cockburn, Service Lead – Education Support Services; T. Burns, Service Lead – Asset Management and Community Asset Transfer; C. Robertson, Local Heat and Energy Efficiencies Strategy Officer; J. Hall, Co-ordinator (Planning Strategy); D. McIntosh, Solicitor; A. Gibson, Committee Services Officer; and C. McCallum, Clerical Assistant.

Attending
Remotely: C. McGhee, Chief Internal Auditor; and T. Simpson, Service Lead – Corporate Accounting;

Also
Attending
in County
Buildings: J. McMillan, S. McGrath, and S. Dougan, Police Scotland; and K. Murphy and G. Hoey, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

Chair's Remarks.

The Chair

- (1) welcomed everyone to the meeting;
- (2) outlined the procedures for conducting this meeting and advised that this meeting would be broadcast live; and
- (3) that the report on today's agenda entitled "Quay Zone – Annual Performance Report" would now be considered at the next meeting of this Panel, scheduled to take place on 16 September 2025.

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.

The Chair raised an issue regarding an item in the Action Log, to be considered later on the agenda at item 3 of this minute relating to a response received from the Service Lead – Democratic Governance for her to ascertain if this Panel had the remit to examine the business plans relating to Belleisle and Darley Golf courses, prior to consideration at Cabinet. Having noted that Members had received an explanation advising that this Panel did not have the remit to examine these business cases, it was noted that this would be the subject of a Briefing to Members on 27 August 2025.

Adjournment.

Due to technical difficulties, the Panel adjourned for ten minutes.

2. Minutes of previous meeting.

The Minutes of 10 June 2025 ([issued](#)) were submitted and approved, subject to an amendment to item 8 "The International Ayr Show – 2024: Economic Impact Assessment" to read "to continue consideration of the Economic Impact Assessment for the 2024 International Ayr Show to a future meeting of this Panel, to allow the full Economic Impact Assessment to be included with the report and not only the executive summary, as attached to this report."

3. Action Log and Work Programme.

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

Having heard the Assistant Director - Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance intimate that in relation to the Work Programme, and as mentioned previously, the report on today's agenda entitled "Quay Zone – Annual Performance Report" would now be considered at the next meeting of this Panel, scheduled to take place on 16 September 2025. It was also noted that the report entitled "Local Housing Strategy Annual Update (Year 1 2024/25)" would now be considered at the meeting of this Panel, scheduled to take place on 21 October 2025.

The Assistant Director - Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance also advised that all the outstanding actions in the Action Log were now complete.

The Panel

Decided:

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

4. Local Performance Report: Police Scotland

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 7 August 2025 by the Chief Executive providing the Panel with information about the year-end performance (quarter four) of Police Scotland in South Ayrshire for 2024/25.

The Panel heard Superintendent McMillan give a brief outline to the contents of the report.

The issue of drug supply charges was raised and it was noted that the public could report this anonymously to Police Scotland with trends seen in its reduction but that it was difficult to measure figures relating to this crime.

Having heard a Member of the Panel in relation to cases relating to rape and sexual assault, it was noted that “non-recent” related to cases not in the last few days or weeks.

Members of the Panel expressed their thanks to Police Scotland for the work they had undertaken in the Wallacetown area of Ayr.

The Panel noted that the figures for South Ayrshire were not overly different to the national figures.

There was discussion on the difficulties faced in tackling drug related crimes.

A Panel Member raised the issue of the difficulties Police Scotland faced by rural police stations and how difficulties were alleviated.

Following various matters being raised by a Panel Member, it was noted that in relation to shoplifting, a partnership between Police Scotland and retailers was important; that 101 calls were now being better managed; what was being done in the protection of young people; and that there were currently eight campus officers employed in South Ayrshire.

Stuart Dougan, Police Scotland, who was leaving his current role, thanked the Council for their support over the years.

Having scrutinised the performance report of Police Scotland in South Ayrshire, the Panel

Decided: noted the contents of the report.

5. Local Performance Report: Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 7 August 2025 by the Chief Executive providing information about the year-end performance (quarter four) of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in South Ayrshire for 2024/25.

The Panel heard Area Commander Kevin Murphy provide a background to the contents of the report.

Having heard a Member of the Panel, it was noted that it was not clear if the fall in numbers for deliberate fire setting was due to a rise in convictions.

A Member of the Panel praised the partnership work the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service had undertaken in the Wallacetown area of Ayr.

The issue of false alarms was raised by a Member of the Panel and it was noted that the number of false alarms was falling but still frustrating.

Having heard a Member of the Panel, it was noted that the early detection of fire with the installation of fire alarms reduced the severity of incidents; and the forthcoming consultation with this Council and local communities to produce a Plan for this area.

Having hear the Chair thank the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service for the work they did withing South Ayrshire and having scrutinised the performance report of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in South Ayrshire, the Panel

Decided: to note the contents of the report.

6. Local Government Benchmarking Framework – Overview of 2023/2024

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 7 August 2025 by the Chief Executive updating the Panel on the publication of the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) data for 2023/2024 for this Panel to consider where scrutiny of this information could help drive improvement.

Having heard the Service Lead – Performance, Community Planning and Sustainability, the Panel

Decided: to continue consideration of this report to a special meeting of this Panel, to allow detailed scrutiny of the various Services of the Council.

7. Participatory Budgeting Activity 2024/2025 Update.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 7 August 2025 by the Chief Executive advising of the Participatory Budgeting (PB) Activity undertaken by Council Services for the period 2024/25.

Following discussion and having heard the Assistant Director – Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance, it was noted that there had not been a consistent approach to date in consultation by the various Services but that it was hoped that there would be a more consistent approach to consultation next year.

Having considered the contents of the PB Activity Report, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, the Panel

Decided: to note the value of budgetary spend influenced through the PB processes during 2024/2025.

8. Developer Contributions Update Relative to Planning Permissions 2024/2025.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 7 August 2025 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development providing an update on the Developer contributions, obtained through legal agreements, gathered and utilised during the period 2024/2025.

The Panel discussed Section 75 legal agreements between the Council and developers in agreeing developer contributions and the process involved.

The Panel heard from the Service Lead – Education Support Services following discussion on the risk that some of the contributions from the Greenan development would not be able to be justifiably utilised, due to the school rolls for Kyle Academy and St. Johns being lower than projected. It was noted that lessons required to be learned from previous experiences for the future.

The Panel

Decided: to note the developer contributions collected from developers relative to their Planning Permissions and utilised to mitigate the impact of their development within the reporting period April 2024 to March 2025.

9. Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy – Progress and Update Report.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 8 August 2025 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development providing an update on the progress of the Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy ('LHEES'), agreed at a meeting of South Ayrshire Council on 19 August 2024; and requesting agreement for the developed and new actions for the LHEES in the delivery plan.

Following questions and having heard various officers, it was noted that the Energy Agency was a key partner; the current position with the Member/Officer Working Group; due to the cost of heat pumps etc, there required to be consideration of any recommendations made to the public in respect of alternative solutions; and that in most cases the installation of solar panels was via permitted development rights.

The Panel

Decided:

- (1) to note the progress made in year 1 of the LHEES strategy and delivery plan; and
- (2) to agree the developed and new actions for the LHEES delivery plan.

10. The International Ayr Show – 2024: Economic Impact Assessment.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 7 August 2025 by the Director of Communities and Transformation providing an update on the Economic Impact Assessment (EIA) for the 2024 International Ayr Show - Festival of Flight.

Having heard a Member of the Panel, the Assistant Director – Communities advised that it was the intention to do a further impact assessment following the next Ayr Show.

A Member of the Panel expressed his concern that out of the reported 260,000 attendees at the Ayr Show in 2024, only 434 people had been approached for survey purposes. It was noted that it was proposed for the 2025 Ayr Show that more people would be made available during the event to gather the views of the attendees.

A Member of the Panel stated that there needed to be more evidence that the Ayr Show was value for money and sustainable.

Following discussion on making the Ayr Show a ticketed event, the Assistant Director – Communities advised that that it would not be possible to fence-off due to the costs involved and that the event was billed as a community type event.

It was agreed that the Assistant Director – Communities would provide Panel Members with details of how the Event in the past had impacted local traders. It was noted that details of the cost of the Ayr Show had been provided in a report to the Council meeting in December 2024.

The Panel

Decided: to note the Economic Impact Assessment for the 2024 Airshow.

11. UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) Year 3 (2024/25) Progress Report.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 7 August 2025 by Director of Communities and Transformation providing an update on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the Year 3 progress.

Having heard a Panel Member, it was noted that no priority areas had been identified with the funding being made available maximised.

Following a question, the Service Lead – Thriving Communities advised that it was not feasible to employ staff full-time, due to the uncertainty surrounding funding.

The Panel, having considered the report and noted the activity and performance during 2024/25,

Decided: to request that officers report outcomes and achievements of UKSPF Year 4 in August 2026.

12. Exclusion of press and public.

The Panel resolved, in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, that the press and public be excluded during consideration of the remaining item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information in terms of paragraphs 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

13. Ayrshire Growth Deal Prestwick Proposition.

There was submitted a report (Members only) of 7 August 2025 by Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development providing an update on the Ayrshire Growth Deal Prestwick Proposition.

Following discussion, the Panel

Decided:

- (1) to note the progress by officers identified in the report towards the strategic recommendations agreed for the Ayrshire Growth Deal Prestwick Proposition;
- (2) to note the further work identified in the activity work schedule; and
- (3) to agree a further update be provided to the Service and Partnerships Performance Panel in March 2026.

14. **Consideration of Disclosure of the above confidential report.**

The Cabinet

Decided: not to authorise the disclosure of this report under Standing Order 32.4:-

- Ayrshire Growth Deal Prestwick Proposition

The meeting ended at 12.50 p.m.