

SERVICE AND PARTNERSHIPS PERFORMANCE PANEL

Minutes of hybrid webcast meeting on
16 September 2025 at 10.00 a.m.

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

Attending
Remotely: Councillors Ian Cochrane, Stephen Ferry and George Weir.

Apologies: Councillors Kenneth Bell and Lee Lyons.

Attending
in County
Buildings: K. Braidwood, Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development; M. Inglis, Head of Children's Health, Care and Justice Service; J. Bradley, Director – Communities and Transformation; L. Reid, Assistant Director – Transformation; K. Anderson, Assistant Director – Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance; G. Hunter, Assistant Director – Communities; K. Dalrymple, Assistant Director – Housing and Operations; D. Mackintosh, Solicitor – Legal and Licensing; S. McCardie, Service Lead - Performance, Community Planning and Sustainability; J. Tait, Service Lead – Thriving Communities; A. Mutch – Service Lead – Sport, Leisure and Golf; N. Cecconi, Co-ordinator – Human Resources; J. Chapman Committee Services Officer; and C. McCallum, Clerical Assistant.

Attending
Remotely: B. Kiloh and J. Birring - Strathclyde Partnership for Transport.

Also
Attending
in County
Buildings: P. Linton, General Manager – The Quay Zone.

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.

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 20 August 2025 ([issued](#)) were submitted and approved.

3. Action Log and Work Programme.

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

The Assistant Director - Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance stated that there was one action due and advised that the Assistant Director of Communities would issue a response later today in respect of that action.

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. Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) – Performance Report 2024/25

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 5 September 2025 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development 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. It also provided the opportunity to identify any areas for further discussion or development of partnership activity.

Following discussions and issues raised by Members in relation to the School Transport and Revenue Funding, an Officer from Strathclyde Partnership for Transport advised that the financials for the organisation were contained in Strathclyde Partnership for Transport budget book.

A Member of the Panel enquired if there was savings made on school contracts. The Officer from Strathclyde Partnership for Transport advised that they did not have that information but would speak to his colleagues in Bus Operations and report back to Members.

Following discussion and issues raised by a Member of the Panel regarding the bidding process, the Head of Ayrshire Roads Alliance advised that any bids that should be placed were done so and time was managed to allow bids to take place.

A Member of the Panel suggested that a more detailed report should be brought to Members in future, failing which Officers should attend a future Panel and give Members a background of how they worked and what were the benefits of that work.

A Member of the Panel enquired if the discounted travel scheme budget of £261,000 had been spent. An Officer from Strathclyde Partnership for Transport advised that it had been spent and was happy to provide a detailed breakdown separately.

Following a question from a Panel Member with regards to the discounted travel scheme, an Officer from Strathclyde Partnership for Transport advised Members that they would take the question to the Scottish Government and report back in due course.

A Member of the Panel requested more information in relation to funding for the Active Travel Hub. The Head of Ayrshire Roads Alliance advised that the funding would be spent on work to bring the Active Travel Hub currently based at the Train Station to a good standard, thereafter it would be relocated to the Citadel.

The Panel, having scrutinised the performance of SPT relating to their activities in South Ayrshire,

Decided: to note the report.

5. **The Quay Zone – Annual Performance Report.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 12 August 2025 by the Director of Communities and Transformation to scrutinise the performance of The Quay Zone.

A Member of the Panel enquired if there was a Janitor on site or a member of staff who would carry out maintenance/janitorial duties. The Quay Zone's General Manager advised that staff were in place who adhered to a rigorous maintenance/cleaning programme.

A Member of the Panel commended the work that had been undertaken and it was noted that South Ayrshire Council owned the Quay Zone building and insured the building's structure, that the extension was paid for by South Ayrshire Council and South Carrick Leisure Trust operated the building on the Council's behalf.

A Member of the Panel enquired if the change to Maybole Swimming Pool had been successful. The Quay Zone's General Manager advised that it was successful in respect of swimming lessons and activities although people were reluctant to travel to attend for general swimming.

Following discussion by Members of the Panel with regards to progress being made on the extension, it was suggested that a briefing be provided to Members in June or July 2026.

A Member of the Panel enquired as to how the creation of the extension would create a higher footfall to increase revenue and sought clarification as to whether more money would be sought from South Ayrshire Council. The Quay Zone's General Manager advised that, in terms of the extension it would enable an increased size of café and that the expanded provision would give the capacity to deliver a surplus which would contribute to other operating costs and emphasised that complete focus was on maximising income. He further advised that he did not envisage any more money being sought at any point by South Carrick Leisure Trust until 2027.

The Panel, having scrutinised the performance of the Quay Zone,

Decided: to note the report.

6. **Shaping Our Future Council.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 8 September 2025 by the Director of Communities and Transformation providing the Panel with an update on the progress of Shaping Our Future Council transformation activity.

A Member the Panel gave their view on the report and sought clarification on whether Officers had a clear understanding of change management. The Assistant Director – Transformation advised that the Council had a statutory duty to invoke proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency, effectiveness and best value in the use of resources and that these were the driver for Transformation.

A Member of the Panel asked for an explanation as to why the two income generation schemes were now viable when the previous pilots for these schemes had failed and the reason why golf had not been included. The Service Lead – Sport, Leisure and Golf advised that a business case has been fully developed with the assistance of HRA and Property Maintenance and was a completely different aspect from last time with lessons being learned from the previous project. The Director of Communities and Transformation advised that the golf project was ongoing and had still to go through various stages of approval.

The Panel

Decided:

- (1) to note that the 2025 Best Value thematic Transformation audit improvement actions were either on track or complete, as detailed at Appendix 1;
- (2) to note the update provided in the 'Shaping Our Future Council' transformation Dashboard Report at Appendix 2i; the updated Portfolio On A Page Appendix 2ii; Portfolio Risk Register Appendix 2iii, and Benefits Report at Appendix 2iv;
- (3) to note the action being progressed through the Transformation Board at 3.7 including a refresh of the transformation programme to focus on initiatives that realised significant savings/ income generation and supported the Council's short to medium term budget strategy; and;

- (4) to agree with the recommendation of the Transformation Board and recommend to Cabinet that the transformation portfolio be extended from 3 to 5 years to allow for the sufficient time required to develop and implement change projects and reflect benefits realisation timelines; and
- (5) to note that the next update on Shaping Our Future Council would be presented to Service, Partnerships and Performance Panel in March 2026, in line with the agreed scrutiny and reporting arrangements.

7. Community Wealth Building Programme 2021-2025.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 5 September 2025 by the Director of Communities and Transformation providing an update on Community Wealth Building Programme 2021-2025.

A Member of the Panel commented and gave their view on the Report.

Following a question from a Member of the Panel with regards to the work being undertaken in town centres and villages, the Service Lead – Thriving Communities gave examples of the ongoing work and developments taking place.

Following a discussion and issues raised by Members of the Panel regarding the core restrictions in the Planning Policy, the Assistant Director - Communities advised that he would get back to Members with answers on this issues raised.

The Panel

Decided:

- (1) to approve the Community Wealth Building (CWB) report including the 2021-2025 evaluation; and
- (2) to note the updates regarding Community Wealth Building and the recommendations moving forward.

8. Employee Absence 2024/2025.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 5 September 2025 by the Chief HR Officer providing Employee Absence 2024/2025.

A Member of the Panel gave their view on the Report and highlighted the importance of ensuring that the services available to staff were well advertised.

Following a question from a Member of the Panel, the Co-ordinator – Human Resources provided examples of the type of Psychological and Musculoskeletal absences.

Following discussion, it was established that all members of staff had access to the Employee Assistance Programme to seek help by way of Counselling or Cognitive Behavioural Therapy.

The Panel, having scrutinised the information in the context of the Local Government Benchmarking Information previously reported,

Decided: to note the report.

The meeting ended at 11:55am.

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