

County Buildings
Wellington Square
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14 September 2022

To: Councillors Philip Saxton (Chair), Kenneth Bell, Mark Dixon, Ian Cochrane, Hugh Hunter and Mary Kilpatrick.

All other Elected Members for information only

Dear Councillor

PARTNERSHIPS PANEL

You are requested to participate in the above Panel to be held on **Wednesday 21 September 2022 at 10.00am** for the purpose of considering the undernoted business.

This meeting will be held on a hybrid basis in County Hall for Elected Members with a remote option, will be live-streamed and available to view at <https://south-ayrshire.public-i.tv/>

Yours sincerely

CATRIONA CAVES
Head of Legal, HR and Regulatory Services

B U S I N E S S

1. Sederunt and Declarations of Interest.
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting of 28 June 2022 (copy herewith)
3. Action Log and Work Programme (copy herewith)
4. Ayr Gaiety Performance Report (copy herewith)
5. Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) – Performance Report 2021/22 (copy herewith)

For more information on any of the items on this agenda, please telephone Courtney Buchanan, Committee Services at 01292 612474, Wellington Square, Ayr or
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PARTNERSHIPS PANEL

Minutes of a hybrid webcast Meeting held on
28 June 2022 at 10.00am.

Present: Councillors Philip Saxton (Chair), Mark Dixon, Ian Cochrane, and Hugh Hunter.

Attending: D. Gillies, Director – Place; K. Braidwood, Head of Roads, ARA; W Carlaw, Service Lead – Democratic Governance; K. Anderson, Service Lead – Policy, Performance and Community Planning; S. McCardie, Community Planning Lead Officer; Group Commander D. Heaton and Watch Commander D. Wilson, Scottish Fire and Rescue F. Hussain, Chief Superintendent – Divisional Commander - Ayrshire, K. Lammie, Chief Inspector – Local Area Commander South Ayrshire, Police Scotland and Alison Nelson, Co-ordinator, Democratic Services

1. **Sederunt & Declarations of Interest**

The Chair took the Sederunt and outlined the procedures for conducting this meeting and advised that this meeting would be broadcast live.

In terms of Council Standing Order No. 17 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct, Councillor Saxton declared an interest in Agenda Item 3 due to his membership of the Ayrshire Shared Services Joint Committee and confirmed that he was satisfied that there was no conflict.

2. **Action Log**

The Director – Place provided the Panel with an update on the status of the Action Log and Work Programme.

One Member enquired about the condition of the roof and lease of the Freeman's Hall, the Director – Place advised that he would discuss this with Asset Management and update the Panel on the current situation relating to the roof and the lease of the premises.

Decided: to note the Action Log and Work Programme including the verbal update by the Director – Place.

3. **Ayrshire Roads Alliance Service Plan 2022/23 and Performance Report 2021/22**

There was submitted a report (issued) of 15 June 2022 by the Director – Place presenting Members with the Ayrshire Roads Alliance Service Plan 2022/23 and Performance Report 2021/22.

The Head of Roads, Ayrshire Roads Alliance provided a detailed overview of Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 of the Service Plan for 2022/23 and Performance Scorecard for 2021/22.

Various questions were asked by Members of the Panel and responses provided as follows:

- (1) A Member raised a question in relation to the Levelling-Up-Fund and asked how many bids had been submitted and from what area of the Council. The Director – Place advised that a report was being submitted to Council tomorrow (29th) that would address this.
- (2) A Member asked, if there was an underspend in resurfacing the areas currently identified, would any underspend be used to target other resurfacing requirements, the Head of Roads, ARA advised that if there was any underspend it would be targeted towards other areas.
- (3) One Member asked if the Panel could be provided with a financial forecast of the expected increase in materials and the Head of Roads intimated that he did not have that information but assured the Panel that the situation was being monitored closely, he did intimate that he would circulate the requested information but advised that the cost of bitumen was increasing on a weekly basis.
- (4) A Member enquired about the challenges facing ARA in relation to the installation of charging points and asked how these challenges would be addressed and what consultation would be undertaken with stakeholders to address this issue. The Head of Roads, ARA advised that some consultation had already taken place and that ARA were in a partnership with Scotland Futures Trust and Transport Scotland and that ARA had been awarded £120,000, £60,000 for each local authority, to develop a strategy for public charging. He advised that a revised paper would be presented to Cabinet after the recess, if approved the paper would then require to be submitted to Scottish Futures Trust and Transport Scotland. He advised that a private partnership for private charging would require to be established which would be responsible for the installation and maintenance of the charging points. He further advised that the Scottish Government were eager that the private sector become involved in private charging going forward.
- (5) A Member thanked the Head of Roads for his excellent management of ARA and congratulated him and his staff for their recent APSE award.

After further discussion the Panel

Decided:

- 1) to consider Appendix 1 of the Ayrshire Roads Alliance Service Plan for 2022/23;
- 2) to note that regular progress updates are provided to the Ayrshire Shared Service Joint Committee;
- 3) to scrutinise the performance scorecard for 2021/22 as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report; and
- 4) to note the contents of the report.

4. Local Performance Report: Police Scotland

There was submitted a report (issued) of 23 June 2022 by the Assistant Director – People providing Members of the Panel with information about the year-end performance of Police Scotland.

Chief Superintendent Hussain provided a detailed overview of Appendix 1 of the report and highlighted an error in the heading Drug Supply which read -4.6% which should have read -1.6%.

Various questions were asked by Members of the Panel and responses provided as follows:

- (1) One Member asked what impact the early retirement of Officers would have on service delivery within South Ayrshire. Chief Superintendent Hussain advised that there would be no impact on service delivery and that replacements had been identified for the Officers retiring and that those newly promoted Officers would be fully supported in their roles within the organisation. He further advised that Police Scotland had set up Operation Lock to manage retirements across the organisation.
- (2) One Member commented on the number of domestic abuse cases which appeared to be extremely high and enquired what the long-term strategy was to improve this figure. Chief Superintendent Hussain intimated that in terms of prevention Campus Police Officers worked closely with colleagues within the Education Services and that education was crucial in helping to reduce this figure. He went on to advise that Police Scotland worked closely with partner organisations and commented on the importance of awareness campaigns such as 'Don't be that Guy', further intimating that this issue was not solely an issue for Police Scotland and that all partners had to come together to try and eradicate this.
- (3) The Chair enquired when the next Police Scotland report would be submitted to Panel and Chief Inspector Hussain advised that Police Scotland reported to this Panel on a 6 monthly basis though it would be possible to report quarterly.

The Chair thanked Chief Inspector Hussain for the work done by Police Scotland within South Ayrshire and after discussion the Panel

Decided:

- (1) to scrutinise the 2021-22 end of year performance report of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in South Ayrshire and provides feedback to the Local Senior Officer.
- (2) to agree to the submission of Police Scotland reports on a quarterly basis.

5. Local Performance Report: Scottish Fire and Rescue – 2021/22 Full Year Performance and Service Update Report

There was submitted a report (issued) of 15 June 2022 by the Assistant Director – People providing Members of the Panel with information about the year-end performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in South Ayrshire.

Group Commander Heaton updated the Panel on the report and various questions were asked by Members of the Panel and responses provided as follows:

- (1) A Member highlighted the high number of unwanted fire alarm signals and asked what impact this had on service delivery and what work was being undertaken to reduce this figure. Group Commander Heater advised that there had been a consultation exercise undertaken last year which subsequently resulted in a change of policy which would come into effect in April 2023 and that the change in policy, which was further detailed in the report, was expected to improve this figure next year.

- (2) A Member enquired about the High Flats in Ayr and the speculation around the refurbishment of these flats and asked what problems the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service would face, if the flats were refurbished, on entering them in a case of an emergency. Group Commander Heaton advised that the Service had procedures in place to deal with high rise incidents and he further advised that there was a consultation exercise currently being undertaken to meet the Grenfeld recommendations.
- (3) The Chair enquired about wilful fire raising and asked if there was a pattern to these incidents. Commander Wilson advised that the Service were experiencing incidents in Dundonald Road, Troon and the Oval, Prestwick but due to Covid-19 were unable to visit schools to warn of the dangers of fire raising and had been liaising with the Campus Officers to arrange presentations to pupils with a view to reducing this figure. The Chair intimated that it may be beneficial to also include primary schools in any preventive programmes.

After further discussion and debate the Panel

Decided: to scrutinise the 2021-22 end of year performance report of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in South Ayrshire and provide feedback to the Local Senior Officer.

6. Scottish Fire and Rescue – Draft Strategic Plan 2022-25

There was submitted a report (issued) of 15 June 2022 by the Assistant Director - People requesting Members of the Panel to consider and comment on the Scottish Fire and Rescue Services Draft Strategic Plan for 2022-25.

A Member asked Group Commander Heaton what outcomes would be most challenging and what measures would be put in place to achieve improvements. Group Commander Heaton advised that improving community wellbeing and community safety would be challenging as a collective approach, with other partner agencies, was required. He further advised of the educational programmes in place to tackle this outcome.

The Chair thanked Group Commander and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service for the work undertaken in South Ayrshire and in particular the assistance provided during the Kincaidston incident.

After further discussion and debate the Panel

Decided: to scrutinise the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's Draft Strategic Plan 2022-25 and provide feedback to the Local Senior Officer. Feedback from the Panel would be incorporated into the Council's response to the consultation.

The meeting concluded at 10:54

Partnerships Panel – 21 September 2022

Action Log

| Date of Meeting Action No. | Report | Action | Assigned to | Update | Completed |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 17 November 2021 | Room Bookings & Revenue | Panel requested breakdown by Local Authority of the 2,800 room nights and £260,000 revenue. | Co-ordinator (Destination, Promotion and Inclusive Participation) | VisitScotland is working with Expedia to try to drill down into the data to identify spend specifically in South Ayrshire. An update will be provided once the information is received. <i>Visit Scotland still awaiting feedback from Expedia.</i> | |
| 28 June 2022 | Ayrshire Roads Alliance Service Plan 2022/23 and Performance Report 2021/22 | Panel requested an indication of the likely increase in the cost of material. | Head of Roads – ARA. | <i>Costs continue to require a level of monitoring given the cost of oil-based products, fuel and carrier costs, along with the removal of red diesel usage. Steel lighting columns and high value electrical equipment continues to have a long lead in.</i> | |

Petition update

| Public Petition | Action | Update |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Residents Parking – additional spaces, Prestwick | Petition refused in terms of 2.5 and 2.6.7 of the Council's Petitions Protocol. In terms of 2.6.7. – it would be inappropriate for this Panel to consider the petition as the matter is one which has its own procedures. In this case, Road Traffic Regulations which are a planning matter. | The Head of Legal, HR and Regulatory Services notified the Lead Petitioner of the rejection of the Petition, in keeping with clause 3.2 of the Council's Petitions Protocol. She also advised the Petitioner that this matter was forwarded to Ayrshire Roads Alliance asking them to treat it as a service request. |
| Playpark in Mossblown | Petition refused in terms of 3.1 and 2.5 of the Council's Petitions Protocol relating to signatures and addresses. Also, no information provided on the previous steps taken to resolve the matter. | The Head of Legal, HR and Regulatory Services notified the Lead Petitioner of the rejection of the Petition, in keeping with clause 3.2 of the Council's Petitions Protocol. |
| Prestwick Business Improvement District (BID) | The Petition was due to be heard by the Panel on 18 November 2020. The Lead Petitioner requested that the Petition be carried forward to the next meeting of the Panel as businesses would be much clearer with regard to the impact of Covid-19, he also advised that he had experienced difficulties setting up conference calls with committee members to discuss the Petition and stated that this had seriously affected the BID Petition preparation. | The Petition was due to be heard at Panel on the 10 February 2021. As a result of further Covid-19 restrictions, the Petitioner was given the option of joining the meeting remotely, or carrying forward the Petition to the next Panel meeting on the 21 April 2021, the Petitioner chose the latter. The Petitioner was contacted ahead of the April Panel and asked to confirm that he wished the Petition to proceed, the Petitioner responded that he was having difficulty contacting two members of his committee and requested a further adjournment. Following consideration by the Monitoring Officer, the Petitioner was informed that a further adjournment would not be possible given that the Panel was ready to hear the Petition in November 2020, accordingly the Petition would fall. This would not preclude a further Petition being brought at a later date. |
| | | |

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bring Peace to Eastfield | <p>Petition refused in terms of 2.6 Council's Petitions Protocol that it would be inappropriate for the Panel to consider a petition in the following circumstances :</p> <p>Paragraph 2.6.5 - if it" is considered to have potential to cause personal distress or loss"</p> <p>Paragraph 2.6.6 - if it" relates to an individual's circumstances or an individual's grievance..... or contains information by which individuals can be identified"</p> <p>Paragraph 2.6.11 - if it contains " matters that could damage a person's...reputation"</p> <p>Paragraph 2.6.12 - if it contains " an allegation or matter which could contain information that is not true or is defamatory, discriminate against someone ..."</p> | The Head of Legal, HR and Regulatory Services notified the Lead Petitioner of the rejection of the Petition, in keeping with clause 3.2 of the Council's Petitions Protocol. |
| Save Ayr Citadel – 8 October 2021 | The Petition was refused because it would not be appropriate for the petition to proceed to Panel when it related to a decision taken by Council in the last 6 months. The Leadership Panel of 24 August 2021 considered a report on the proposed new leisure centre. Further, a petition application would not proceed to Panel where it involved matters with their own distinct procedures, such as Planning. The planning process had been triggered in relation to the proposals. During that process, members of the public would be able to make their representations known to the Council. | The Head of Legal, HR and Regulatory Services notified the Lead Petitioner of the rejection of the Petition, in keeping with clause 3.2 of the Council's Petitions Protocol. |
| Anti-Social Behaviour – Wellington Street Prestwick | The Petition was refused because it would not be appropriate for the petition to proceed to Panel. 2.5 of the Petition Protocol states that the Petitioner should be able to demonstrate that steps had been taken to attempt to resolve the issue of concern prior to submitting the petition. Details of services or officers of the Council previously approached, together with copies or summaries of the responses received, should have been submitted together with the Petition, this information was not included in the Petition. | The Service Lead – Democratic Governance notified the Lead Petitioner of the rejection of the Petition, in keeping with clause 3.2 of the Council's Petitions Protocol. |

**PARTNERSHIPS PANEL
WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23**

| Report | Assigned To | Due Date To Panel | Latest update |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Performance Report: Police Scotland (Bi-annual) | Assistant Director - People | November 2022 | |
| Performance Report: Scottish Fire and Rescue (Bi-Annual) | Assistant Director - People | - | |
| Performance Report: Ayr Gaiety | Assistant Director - People | September 2022 | |
| Performance Report: Strathclyde Passenger for Transport SPT | Director - Place | September 2022 | |
| South Ayrshire Council and Visit Scotland | Director - People | November 2022 | |

South Ayrshire Council

**Report by Assistant Director People
to Partnerships Panel
of 21 September 2022**

Subject: Ayr Gaiety Partnership Performance Report

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to invite members of the Panel to scrutinise the performance of the Ayr Gaiety Partnership (AGP).

2. Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that the Panel considers the performance of the Ayr Gaiety Partnership in delivering the activities required as part of the agreement for Council funding.

3. Background

3.1 On 22 March 2012, the Council agreed to support a partnership between the Council, AGP and the University of the West of Scotland. As part of this agreement and working to lever in other external funding, AGP were asked to deliver:

- the theatre as a community resource and a performance and display space for local arts organisations;
- a centre of excellence for education and training;
- links with UWS to deliver an education programme and re-enforcement of Ayr as University town; and
- volunteering opportunities.

3.2 In December 2017, Council agreed a 3 year funding package for AGP:

- 2018/19 £125,000;
- 2019/20 £115,000; and
- 2020/21 £100,000.

3.3 In addition to this previously agreed financial support and due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Council agreed to provide £100,000 to the Gaiety Theatre from the Covid-19 Business Support discretionary fund plus a further £200,000 from Council general reserves.

3.4 The Council previously agreed a secured loan of £650,000 at a rate of 2.5% over 5 years. Given the unprecedented effects of the Covid-19 pandemic the Council agreed to amend the repayment terms and period of the loan. A payment holiday was in place until April 2022 and AGP is now making loan repayments on a monthly basis.

3.5 In March 2022, the Partnerships Panel discussed a funding request from AGP and referred the matter for consideration. A paper regarding the funding request is going to Cabinet in September 2022.

4. Proposals

4.1 The AGP is an important partner in delivering the Council's strategic objectives to increase access to arts and culture in South Ayrshire. Officers have been working with them on aligning their activities with the Council's strategic objectives and the vision, aims and objectives of the Tourism and Events Strategy. A summary of progress is set out in [Appendix 1](#).

5. Legal and Procurement Implications

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

5.2 There are no procurement implications arising from this report

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

7. Human Resources Implications

7.1 Not applicable.

8. Risk

8.1 Risk Implications of Adopting the Recommendations

8.1.1 There are no risks associated with adopting the recommendations.

8.2 Risk Implications of Rejecting the Recommendations

8.2.1 There is a risk that rejecting the recommendations will mean that the Council misses the opportunity to scrutinise an external body that it provides funding to.

9. Equalities

9.1 The proposals in this report allow scrutiny of performance. The report does not involve proposals for policies, strategies, procedures, processes, financial decisions and activities (including service delivery), both new and at review, that affect the Council's communities and employees, therefore an equality impact assessment is not required.

10. Sustainable Development Implications

- 10.1 **Considering Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)** - This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme or strategy or document otherwise described which could be considered to constitute a plan, programme, policy or strategy.

11. Options Appraisal

- 11.1 An options appraisal has not been carried out in relation to the subject matter of this report.

12. Link to Council Plan

- 12.1 The matters referred to in this report contribute to Commitments 4 and 6 of the Council Plan: South Ayrshire Works/ Make the most of the local economy; and A Better Place to Live/ Enhanced environment through social, cultural and economic activities.

13. Results of Consultation

- 13.1 There has been no public consultation on the contents of this report.
- 13.2 Consultation has taken place with Councillor Alec Clark, Portfolio Holder for Tourism and Rural Affairs, and the contents of this report reflects any feedback provided.

Background Papers **Report to Partnerships Panel of 23 March 2022 – [Ayr Gaiety Partnership Performance Report and Funding Request](#)**

Person to Contact **Laura Kerr, Service Lead – Destination South Ayrshire
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Date: 7 September 2022

Ayr Gaiety Partnership Annual Report

This report summarises AGP activity and impacts over the financial year 2021-22. It provides the wider context of what the organisation delivers for the Council and notes current and planned activity in 2022-23.

Key results

During 2021-22 South Ayrshire Council provided additional support to enable Ayr Gaiety Partnership to continue to run The Gaiety theatre and to continue and extend its work in communities. Over the year, AGP delivered

1. Over £5 income for every £1 of Council support (50% of the usual ratio, due to Covid)
2. Over £100,000 of new money from the Scottish Government's Community Recovery Fund to 8 organisations responding to Covid
3. 14 permanent jobs retained
4. 110 freelancers employed
5. 22,000 audiences entertained
6. Around 1,000 people in the community engaged

South Ayrshire Council investment through the pandemic

In the first year of the pandemic, AGP was able to secure other emergency income and therefore avoided making any additional call on SAC in that period. . AGP worked with a range of local groups and charities working in the area to secure the following funding from the Scottish Government's Supporting Communities Fund and Community Recovery Fund. This was in response to requests from national agencies to assist in the process of getting emergency funding out to community based activity:

| TOTAL | Supporting Communities Fund | | Community Recovery Fund | |
|----------|-----------------------------|---------|-------------------------|---------|
| | Apr-20 | Sep-20 | Jan-21 | Jul-21 |
| £318,453 | £128,991 | £75,546 | £35,676 | £78,240 |

SAC provided increased funding of £200,000 to enable AGP to weather the second year of Covid impacts. SAC was also able to secure for AGP a further £100,000 in Covid-related recovery funding. AGP itself secured £1,031,000 from other sources over the period too, including some ticket sales but mainly other emergency grants and donations. The breakdown is as follows:

| 2021-22 | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Adapt and Thrive | Grant to support planning for and implementing relaunch | £75,000 |
| Culture Collective | Innovative creative engagement work with artists working in excluded communities | £197,000 |
| Performing Arts Venues Relief Fund 2 | Stay solvent, bring staff back from furlough & deliver a major programme of activity | £390,000 |
| Donations | Various donations from individuals and private trusts | £50,000 |
| Culture Cancellation Fund | Cover the costs of shows cancelled due to Covid over late 2021 and early 2022 | £113,000 |

| | | |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 2021-22 | | |
| Recovery Fund for Cultural Organisations | To deliver new artistic projects, engaging freelancers and creating productions, with some to strengthen reserves | £206,000 |
| | Total | £1,031,000 |

AGP's delivery over 2021-22

The main benefit of AGP activities is in delivering on the National Performance Framework Culture Outcome: *We are creative and our vibrant and diverse cultures are expressed and enjoyed widely.* The Government's Culture Strategy clarifies this further, *"Culture is central to who we are. It is Scotland's strength. This is why it must be valued first and foremost in and of itself – that is to say culture is worth more than any financial value that can be placed on it."* (Culture Secretary Fiona Hyslop).

In these terms AGP continued to deliver in South Ayrshire over 2021-22. The organisation's economic impact is usually greater than over this period – because much of the activity was in communities and online. However from September there was a gradual return to activity on the stage as well, and that has started to reassert economic impact too. Key achievements during the year included:

7. **Around 22,000 live audience experiences** with an average feedback 'score' of 4.7 on a 5 point scale. Performances from September to November and February to March began to see shows originally scheduled for 2020 finally hitting the stage. Prior to that live shows from our stage, streamed over the internet reached audiences across Scotland and garnered four and five star reviews.
8. **A completely new pantomime "Jamie and the Unicorn"**. Like 2019's *"Jack and the Beanstalk"* – but unlike pantos from 2012-18 – this was created specially for Ayr, with a Scottish creative team and cast. In economic terms this keeps more of the benefit locally. And the increased artistic quality was recognized nationally with four star reviews across the media for the lives show and film.
9. **A new touring Christmas Show – "The Lost Elf"** – targeted at a younger age range (and their families): touring Troon, Girvan, Maybole, Kirkmichael and Ballantrae.
10. **Engagement in creative activity** for around 1,000 people of all ages in settings varying from Wallacetown and Girvan, to Primary Schools and Youth Centres. With significant additional funding secured through Creative Scotland we have placed artists in communities where access to culture is generally low. And created a track record of success gathering national attention.
11. **"The Happiness Collectors"** – an interactive outdoor show that played to small groups of families and children across North Ayr, Girvan, Maybole and beyond – reaching over 1,000 people.
12. **"Text Me When You Get Home"** – an interactive process with community inputs, leading to a film about women's experiences of personal safety.
13. **Investment in new facilities and skills** so that the organisation is better placed as the pandemic recedes to engage in digital delivery and reduce its carbon footprint.
14. **Hosting events on the stage** – while live events were not possible we hosted a wide range of local organisations and events including delivery by South Ayrshire Council, Ayr Hospice, Tamfest and local bands.

15. **Continued support and backing for a range of local initiatives** and organisations with advice and securing funding – for example supporting Ayrshire Women’s Hub to secure new premises and interim funding totaling over £40,000.

16. **Continued support for wider artistic activity including Tamfest** and support for developing artists who focus their work on making a difference in communities.

Meeting Council priorities

AGP also delivers on both economic and wellbeing outcomes, with the following impacts summarized in line with Council priorities.

| Council priority | Gaiety activity |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Reduce Poverty and Disadvantage</i> | In particular partnering with the Council, SVRU and others to develop activity in Wallacetown and pursue further funding |
| <i>Make the most of the Local Economy</i> | Since September 2021 we have been bringing people back into the Town |
| <i>Increase the Profile and Reputation of South Ayrshire and the Council</i> | Over the period we secured regular media and TV coverage for Ayr and Ayrshire – with four star reviews for livestreamed, filmed and live shows |
| <i>Enhanced Environment through Social, Cultural and Economic Activities</i> | The core of what we do, despite the pandemic and a closed building we continued to deliver online – reaching our local audience through social media and film. |

AGP works with the Council in its delivery, coordinating and collaborating with culture, events tourism and education staff. It also works closely with other local organisations including the University of the West of Scotland and Ayrshire College, as well as many community organisations and charities.

2022-23 and beyond

Despite all the challenges of funding uncertainty, The Gaiety is emerging from the pandemic as a stronger organization with a much enhanced and expanded range of activity. Our new Creative Engagement wing, involving some of Scotland’s most exciting theatre-makers, is all about working in and with communities. Dependent on South Ayrshire Council backing over the next year we have and will:

- Deliver key outputs from projects in Wallacetown, Girvan, with care experienced young people and people with dementia.
- Initiate new projects in Maybole and continue many of the creative engagement activities already underway.
- Deliver a steadily growing range of activity on our main stage.
- Reopen our studio for performances including tours of Glasgow’s *A Play A Pier and A Pint*.
- Restart our rural touring programme reaching venues across South Ayrshire (and beyond). Most of the delivery is in South Ayrshire, with occasional dates in other parts of Ayrshire, in the past primarily Fairlie and Cumnock. AGP delivered occasional shows in other villages around South Ayrshire including Barr and Mossblown, but the key South Ayrshire venues have been Ballantrae, Girvan, Maybole, Kirkmichael, and Troon. Funding for this pre-pandemic came from Ayrshire Leader and this relaunched initiative is funded by Creative Scotland at present – AGP are seeking further funding to continue the programme into 2023.
- Initiate a new programme of support for local professional and amateur theatre-makers.

- Deliver the next of our panto productions *Sleeping Beauty* – set to be one of the best pantomimes in Scotland.
- Host the National Festival of Youth Theatre in partnership with South Ayrshire Council.
- Continue to support the delivery of *Tamfest*, and
- Work with Council staff to develop the local cultural economy.

South Ayrshire Council

**Report by Director – Place
to Partnerships Panel
21 September 2022**

**Subject: Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) -
Performance Report 2021/22**

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the work of Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) and the impact its services have on the public transport network in South Ayrshire and across the west of Scotland. It also provides the opportunity to identify any areas for further discussion or development of partnership activity.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Panel scrutinises the performance of SPT relating to their activities in South Ayrshire during 2021/22. A summary of SPT's involvement in South Ayrshire is contained within the [‘Delivering for South Ayrshire’](#) report, prepared by SPT.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The remit of the Partnerships Panel includes ‘to monitor, review and challenge the performance of services in South Ayrshire which are delivered through or in partnership with external bodies.’ SPT falls within the scope of the Partnerships Panel's scrutiny role.
- 3.2 SPT is the Regional Transport Partnership for the west of Scotland and it is a partnership of twelve Councils. SPT was established by the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005, which created Scotland's seven Regional Transport Partnerships. SPT is also the Public Transport Authority for the west of Scotland, and they are a statutory participant in Community Planning and a ‘key agency’ in the Development Planning process.
- 3.3 SPT has a range of planning, operational and project delivery responsibilities including the Regional Transport Strategy, Glasgow Subway, bus stations and bus infrastructure, supporting socially necessary bus services, delivering schools transport on behalf of eleven of the constituent Councils including South Ayrshire and the MyBus demand responsive transport service. SPT also operates and administers the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme (SCTS) on behalf of Councils, and co-ordinates ticketing schemes, such as the ZoneCard multi-modal scheme.

- 3.4 SPT works in partnership with all Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) in the west of Scotland, including South Ayrshire, across a range of themes including health, education, accessibility, social inclusion, equalities and community safety.
- 3.5 Public transport services in South Ayrshire and the wider Strathclyde area have seen significant impacts in patronage levels as a result of the various restrictions and lockdown measures required in response to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Further detail on available patronage impact levels during this period is available within the committee report '[Monitoring report on public transport services and facilities in the SPT area](#)' from August 2021, available on the SPT website.
- 3.6 SPT, the Council, the Ayrshire Roads Alliance and partners work together to deliver a range of solutions to enhance and develop the transport network, infrastructure and services; to promote sustainable development; to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change on the transport network and to promote accessible travel choices. This includes investment in and delivery of public transport infrastructure, active travel infrastructure, park and ride and strategic roads projects.

4. Proposals

- 4.1 SPT receives funding and income from a range of sources, including the 12 constituent Councils, the Scottish Government, income from services (e.g. fares) and other sources. Further information on this is available in the [SPT Budget Book 2021/22](#) which is available from SPT.

Revenue Funding

- 4.2 In SPT's 2021/22 Budget Book, SPT indicate revenue funding from the Council of £1.799m. This is provided via requisition for core SPT services.
- 4.3 SPT received £2.363m from the Council relating to school transport for 2021/22.
- 4.4 Responsibility for the provision of school transport rests with local authorities. The Council contracts SPT to undertake this on their behalf. At present 111 School contracts are in place, catering for 1,636 pupils from 8 High Schools, and 367 pupils from a total of 28 Primary Schools. SPT also carry out regular monitoring of mainstream and Additional Support Needs Transport to ensure that contracts are carried out to the standard required by the Council.
- 4.5 SPT provides this service in relation to school transport to 11 of 12 Councils in the Strathclyde area, and through this regional, cross-boundary approach seeks to ensure an efficient service through economies of scale and regional knowledge, expertise and experience in the provision of school transport. It is difficult to compare the cost per pupil for school transport between council areas as the school transport arrangements differ significantly in each authority – for example, the costs in a rural area where longer trips are required for fewer pupils will naturally be higher than in an urban area, but SPT considers they achieve a competitive price from operators for school transport, and an effective service, for the funding it receives from Councils. With regard to quality, SPT's focus is on ensuring a safe and secure service for transporting pupils, as can be seen from the monitoring undertaken in this regard, noted above.
- 4.6 SPT also operates and administers the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme, providing national entitlement cards and discounted travel for those eligible on rail, subway and ferry services. During 2022/23 financial year the funding to be provided

by Council for Concessionary Travel Scheme funding is £0.263m. This represents a marginal reduction from the equivalent 2020/21 cost which was £0.265m.

- 4.7 The cost of SPT core services is shared among the 12 partners, as required by the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005. The proposed budget and distribution over the 12 Councils is discussed with all Council Directors of Finance (or equivalent) prior to the budget setting process. The agreed formula for the requisition is based on population statistics relative to each area as published by the General Registers Office for Scotland. The Scottish Government also provides a proportion of funding that represents SPT's share of the contribution to the running costs of Regional Transport Partnerships in Scotland. Similarly, the cost of the SCTS is shared between the 12 Councils based on population statistics for older people. The total funding requirement for the local Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme for 2021/22 is £4.059m.

Capital Funding

- 4.8 The Category 1 Programme for SPT in 2022/23 is £63.256m. The Category 1 Programme is set greater than the available funding – this is a standard approach adopted by SPT to ensure that the plan delivery is maximised within the funding available and project delivery movements. As a consequence, there is a projected shortfall of £5.241m on the general capital element of SPT's 2022/23 budget.
- 4.9 Of the total available SPT capital funding, £14.785m was allocated towards Local Authorities and Others. This funding is used to support capital investment across the region, and which benefits all parts of the region wide transport network. The remaining capital funding was allocated to various other Category 1 projects including the Subway Modernisation Programme. Full details of the breakdown of programme funding is contained within SPT's Budget Book 2022/23 publication, available to download from SPT's website.
- 4.10 The development of the capital programme is a collaborative process with all constituent Councils and SPT departments invited to submit project proposals. The project proposals are evaluated against transport planning objectives, project justification, deliverability criteria and affordability. Proposals for transport projects must be in line with the Regional Transport Strategy and any other relevant national, regional and local plans including Local Transport Strategies and Local Development Plans.
- 4.11 For the 2022/23 financial year, SPT provided the following capital funding awards to the Council:

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Ayrshire / Prestwick Statutory Quality Partnership Infrastructure Improvements: | £0.050m |
| Local Cycle Network Improvements: | £0.450m |
| Total SPT Capital Programme for South Ayrshire Council: | £0.500m |

- 4.12 The SQP works are anticipated to include improvements to bus stop facilities throughout the authority area, with programme details developed in discussion with SPT officers and representatives from bus operating companies. Typical enhancements funded through SQP monies are likely to include the provision of new shelters and installation of high access kerbing.

- 4.13 The grant award for 'Local Cycle Network Improvements' will provide funding to complete works associated with several Active Travel projects currently in development, most notably the Alloway–Burton Underpass construction, with works programmed to start later this year. Other projects include Dundonald-Barassie, and Phase 3 of the Loans-Troon scheme.
- 4.14 The submissions made each year to SPT are reviewed by the Ayrshire Roads Alliance Management team to ensure the bids are consistent across the Alliance and equally when the bids are confirmed they are considered fair and equitable across the 12 constituent Councils.
- 4.15 Information on capital grant awards by each Local Authority is available within the SPT Budget Book on their corporate website. Currently this shows that in general terms South Ayrshire receives a comparable amount of funding to other Councils of a similar size and population. It should be noted that the funding is largely project dependent, and may therefore go up or down to reflect specific projects
- 4.16 SPT services and initiatives on the transport network in South Ayrshire and the west of Scotland make a significant contribution to the local outcomes in the South Ayrshire Single Outcome Agreement, the partnership's aims and Council objectives.

5. Legal and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.
- 5.2 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 Not applicable.

7. Human Resources Implications

- 7.1 Not applicable.

8. Risk

8.1 Risk Implications of Adopting the Recommendations

- 8.1.1 There are no risks associated with adopting the recommendations.

8.2 Risk Implications of Rejecting the Recommendations

- 8.2.1 There are no risks associated with the rejection of the recommendations.

9. Equalities

- 9.1 The proposals in this report have been assessed through the Equality Impact Assessment Scoping process. There are no significant potential positive or negative equality impacts of agreeing the recommendations and therefore an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required. A copy of the Equalities Scoping Assessment is attached as [Appendix 1](#).

10. Sustainable Development Implications

- 10.1 **Considering Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)** - This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme or strategy or document otherwise described which could be considered to constitute a plan, programme, policy or strategy.

11. Options Appraisal

- 11.1 An options appraisal has not been carried out in relation to the subject matter of this report.

12. Link to Council Plan

- 12.1 The matters referred to in this report contribute to Commitment 6 of the Council Plan: A Better Place to Live/ Enhanced environment through social, cultural and economic activities.

13. Results of Consultation

- 13.1 There has been no public consultation on the contents of this report.
- 13.2 Consultation has taken place with Councillor Bob Pollock, Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, and the contents of this report reflect any feedback provided.

Background Papers [SPT Annual Report 2020/21](#)

[SPT Budget Book 2022/23](#)

[SPT Delivering for South Ayrshire report](#)

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Date: 7 September 2022

South Ayrshire Council Equality Impact Assessment Scoping Template

Equality Impact Assessment is a legal requirement under the Public Sector Duty to promote equality of the Equality Act 2010. Separate guidance has been developed on Equality Impact Assessment's which will guide you through the process and is available to view here: <https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/equalities/impact-assessment.aspx>

Further guidance is available here: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/assessing-impact-and-public-sector-equality-duty-guide-public-authorities/>

The Fairer Scotland Duty ('the Duty'), Part 1 of the Equality Act 2010, came into force in Scotland from 1 April 2018. It places a legal responsibility on Councils to actively consider ('pay due regard to') how we can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage, when making strategic decisions. See information here: [Interim Guidance for Public Bodies](#) in respect of the Duty, was published by the Scottish Government in March 2018.

1. Policy details

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Policy Title | Strathclyde Partnership for Transport Performance Report 2021/22 |
| Lead Officer (Name/Position/Email) | Kevin.braidwood@ayrshireroadsalliance.org |

2. Which communities, groups of people, employees or thematic groups do you think will be, or potentially could be, impacted upon by the implementation of this policy? Please indicate whether these would be positive or negative impacts

| Community or Groups of People | Negative Impacts | Positive impacts |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Age – men and women, girls & boys | - | - |
| Disability | - | X |
| Gender Reassignment (Trans/Transgender Identity) | - | - |
| Marriage or Civil Partnership | - | - |
| Pregnancy and Maternity | - | - |
| Race – people from different racial groups, (BME) ethnic minorities and Gypsy/Travellers | - | - |
| Religion or Belief (including lack of belief) | - | - |
| Sex – gender identity (issues specific to women & men or girls & boys) | - | - |
| Sexual Orientation – person's sexual orientation i.e. LGBT+, lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, heterosexual/straight | - | - |
| Thematic Groups: Health, Human Rights & Children's Rights | - | - |


3. What likely impact will this policy have on people experiencing different kinds of social disadvantage? (Fairer Scotland Duty). Consideration must be given particularly to children and families.

| Socio-Economic Disadvantage | Negative Impacts | Positive impacts |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Low Income/Income Poverty – cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing | - | - |
| Low and/or no wealth – enough money to meet Basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provision for the future | - | - |
| Material Deprivation – being unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure/hobbies | - | - |
| Area Deprivation – where you live (rural areas), where you work (accessibility of transport) | - | X |
| Socio-economic Background – social class i.e. parent’s education, employment and income | - | - |

4. Do you have evidence or reason to believe that the policy will support the Council to:

| General Duty and other Equality Themes Consider the ‘Three Key Needs’ of the Equality Duty | Level of Negative and/or Positive Impact (High, Medium or Low) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation | Low |
| Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not | Low |
| Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. (Does it tackle prejudice and promote a better understanding of equality issues?) | Low |
| Increase participation of particular communities or groups in public life | Low |
| Improve the health and wellbeing of particular communities or groups | Low |
| Promote the human rights of particular communities or groups | Low |
| Tackle deprivation faced by particular communities or groups | Low |

5. Summary Assessment

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Is a full Equality Impact Assessment required? (A full Equality Impact Assessment must be carried out if impacts identified as Medium and/or High) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| Rationale for decision: This report advises the Panel of SPT involvement in South Ayrshire. Members’ decision on this has no specific equality implications | |
| Signed :  | Head of Ayrshire Roads Alliance |
| Date: 09 August 2022 | |