

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