

SERVICE AND PARTNERSHIPS PERFORMANCE PANEL

Minutes of hybrid webcast meeting on
19 September 2023 at 10.00 a.m.

Present
in County
Buildings: Councillors Philip Saxton (Chair); and George Weir.

Present
Remotely: Councillors Kenneth Bell, Ian Cochrane, Chris Cullen, Mark Dixon; and
Mary Kilpatrick.

Apology: Councillor Gavin Scott.

Attending
in County
Buildings: M. Newall, Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and
Development; G. Hunter, Assistant Director – Communities; W. Wesson, Chief
HR Adviser; W. Carlaw, Service Lead – Democratic Governance;
K. Braidwood, Head of Roads and D. Manson, Special Project Officer, Ayrshire
Roads Alliance; A. Gibson, Committee Services Officer; and C. McCallum,
Clerical Assistant.

Attending
Remotely: S. Tyeson , Senior Manager,(Planning, Policy and Commissioning), Health and
Social Care Partnership.

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 August 2023 ([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 Panel heard the Assistant Director – Strategic Change give a verbal update on the Action Log and Work Programme and advised

- (1) that, as stated in the Work Programme, it was now proposed that reports to be considered relating to Scottish Fire and Rescue would be on the agenda for the meeting on 24 October 2023; and
- (2) that in relation the reporting of the Local Performance Report for Police Scotland and following a question from a Member of the Panel, it was agreed that the Assistant Director – Communities would ascertain which periods it was proposed to report to the meeting of this Panel, scheduled for 21 November 2023 and advise Panel Members accordingly.

The Panel

Decided:

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

4. **Active Travel Strategy Performance Report**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 7 September 2023 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development providing an update on the Council's Active Travel Strategy.

With reference to the Major Projects listed in in paragraph 6.1 of the report and following a question from a Member of the Panel, it was confirmed that the majority of funding was in place for these Projects.

Following a question from a Member of the Panel, it was confirmed that Active Travel Member/Officer Working Group had already met twice and would meet monthly going forward. It was also confirmed that the Community Action Group had already met approximately four times and had thirty regular members but were keen for new members to join the Group. It was further noted that meeting locations were varied throughout South Ayrshire.

A Member of the Panel indicated that, as stated in the report, one of the key objectives was Education and asked to what extent this was still a focus. The Special Project Officer advised that it was still a priority to engage with youths and that about five schools were currently being worked with in this regard.

Having heard a Member of the Panel in relation to the funding of the Doon Valley Active Travel Scheme, it was noted that each Authority could make bids directly to Sustrans, who had a budget in excess of £100 m. for this purpose.

A Member of the Panel praised the development of the Dunure Road underpass. It was noted that this project had been put forward for a national award next month.

The Panel, having scrutinised the Ayrshire Roads Alliance performance in delivering the Active Travel Strategy across the network,

Decided: to note the contents of the report.

5. **Employee Absence 2022/23.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 7 September 2023 by the Chief Executive providing detailed information and analysis of sickness absence across Council services for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

Having heard a Member of the Panel advise that it would be helpful in the report if, in relation to comparing the breakdown of absence for all employees in the years 2021/22 and 2022/23, as listed in paragraph 4.1.2 of the report, if there could be better context with the number of employees being indicated within these figures.

Following a matter raised by a Member of the Panel, it was noted that in relation to early intervention, if a sickness period was over four weeks, that employee would be referred to Occupational Health.

A Member of the Panel enquired if, in the future, different categories of staff could be reflected in the statistics shown in the report. The Chief HR Adviser indicated that this could be undertaken and at present the Council were providing Healthy Working Lives Programmes to Grounds Maintenance and Health and Social Care Partnership staff.

Having heard a Member of the Panel enquire about the Cycle to Work Scheme, it was noted that it was proposed to relaunch this Scheme in October of this year and that it was the intention to build in more healthy working lives programmes in the future.

Having scrutinised this information in the context of the Local Government Benchmarking Information previously reported, the Panel

Decided: to note the contents of the report.

6. **Integration Joint Board (IJB) Annual Performance Report 2022-2023**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 7 September 2023 by the Director of Health and Social Care providing a copy of the Integration Joint Board (IJB) Annual Performance Report 2022-23 for scrutiny.

Having heard a Member of the Panel in relation to the high number of delayed discharges and how this could be improved upon, the Senior Manager (Planning, Policy and Commissioning) advised that this was a challenging matter across the sector, but that the recruitment and retention of staff was a high priority. It was further noted that she would provide the Members of the Panel with the indicative cost of keeping a patient in a hospital bed.

After a Member of the Panel spoke on collecting data from the positive outcomes and experiences, he was advised that there had been a post created to undertake this role.

Having heard a Member of the Panel in relation to the Emergency Bed Day Rate, it was agreed that the Senior Manager (Planning, Policy and Commissioning) would provide further information to Members on the statistics provided in the report, by way of a Briefing Note.

It was agreed that, with reference to Locality Planning, officers should take on board, to providing in future reports to this Panel, information on which activities related to each Ward.

Having considered the contents of the IJB Annual Performance Report 2022-23 (attached as Appendix 1 to the report), the Panel

Decided: to note the contents of the report.

The meeting ended at 10.55 a.m.