

SERVICE AND PARTNERSHIPS PERFORMANCE PANEL

Minutes of hybrid webcast meeting on
24 October 2023 at 10.00 a.m.

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

Present
Remotely: Councillors Ian Cochrane, Chris Cullen.

Apologies: Councillors Kenneth Bell; Mark Dixon; and Mary Kilpatrick.

Attending
in County
Buildings: J. Bradley, Director of Strategic Change and Communities; G. Hunter, Assistant Director – Communities; K. Briggs, Service Lead – Legal and Licensing; K. Anderson, Service Lead – Policy, Performance and Community Planning; J. Tait, Service Lead – Thriving Communities; G. Farrell, Service Lead – Organisational Development and Customer Services; D. McVey, Co-ordinator (Registration, Records and Information); J. Andrew, Co-ordinator (Organisational Development, Change and Improvement); N. Cecconi, HR Policy and Operations Co-ordinator; Temporary Chief Superintendent R. Higgins and Chief Inspector K. Lammie, Police Scotland; A. Gibson, Committee Services Officer; and E. Moore, Clerical Assistant.

Attending
Remotely: C. Boyd, Service Lead – Risk and Safety; and S. McMillan, Co-ordinator (Project Implementation).

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 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 19 September 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.

After the Panel heard the Assistant Director – Strategic Change gave a verbal update on the Action Log and Work Programme, he advised that in relation to Actions (2) and (3) in the Action Log relating to the IJB Annual Performance Report 2022-2023, considered at this Panel on 19 September 2023, the Senior Manager, Planning, Policy and Commissioning, Health and Social Care Partnership would be invited to the next meeting of this Panel to provide further clarity to Members of the Panel.

The Panel

Decided:

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

4. **Local Performance Report: Police Scotland**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 13 October 2023 by the Service Lead – Performance, Policy, and Community Planning providing information about the year-end performance of Police Scotland in South Ayrshire for 2022/23 and Quarter 1 of 2023/24.

Temporary Chief Superintendent Higgins spoke on the contents of the report.

After a Member of the Panel enquired if, having different kinds of hate crime types listed, would result in double counting for statistical purposes, he was advised that this was governed by Scottish Crime Recording Standards and that this could occur.

A Member of the Panel enquired how many police officers there were in South Ayrshire at present. Temporary Chief Superintendent Higgins advised that there were currently one-hundred and fifty-nine officers but that this could vary on a daily basis.

Having heard a Member of the Panel raise the matter of shoplifting, Temporary Chief Superintendent Higgins advised that there were details of this crime within the report. It was further noted that there had been a slight rise in shoplifting within South Ayrshire but nationally, it had risen significantly.

A Member of the Panel raised his concern regarding Police response times. Temporary Chief Superintendent Higgins advised that although Police officer numbers had gone down, the manner in which policing was conducted had changed post COVID and that recently eight cadet officers had joined to help support the communities of South Ayrshire.

A Member of the Panel indicated that he found the pie charts provided by Police Scotland in the report confusing.

There was discussion on whether the figures provided in the report were recorded crime or actual crime.

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

Decided: to note the position.

5. **FIOSA/EIR Annual Report 2022/23**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 20 September 2023 by the Head of Legal and Regulatory Services providing an update to Members on the Council's response times against statutory time scales, and the volume of requests made under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) and the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (EIRs) by subject matter and type of requester during the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

A Member of the Panel enquired if information requested which was publicly available, was included in the statistics as an FOI request. The Co-ordinator (Registration, Records and Information) advised that often the enquiry would entail more information than was publicly available but that where information was publicly available, care was taken not to record this as an FOI request and direct the applicant to where the information could be found.

Having heard a Member of the Panel advise that it would be helpful to provide the requests indicated in the tables listed by volume and frequency, the Co-ordinator (Registration, Records and Information) indicated that she would take this on board.

Having scrutinised the contents of this report, the Panel

Decided: to request a further report to a future meeting of the Panel providing an update on the Council's FOISA/ EIR performance during the period 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024.

6. **2022-25 Council Workforce Plan Annual Update**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 13 October 2023 by the Director of Strategic Change and Communities providing an update of the Council 2022-2025 Workforce Plan and associated Action Plan.

In relation to page 6 of Appendix 1 within the report, in relation to the Action "Align Future Workforce Monitoring equality reports with workforce planning reports and updates" a Member of the Panel enquired if the action was not complete as the Equalities officer post had not yet been filled. The Co-ordinator (Organisational Development, Change and Improvement) advised that the Action did not include the filling of this post.

There was discussion in relation to visas being provided to individuals from abroad to facilitate their employment to the Health and Social Care Partnership.

The Panel

Decided:

- (1) to note the contents of this report;
- (2) to note amendments and extension to related activities within Appendix 1 of the report;
- (3) to request an interim report in April 2024 that provided:-
 - an update on workforce planning governance and oversight;
 - preparation for the 2024 best value thematic audit; and
 - progress on actions in appendix 1 that required an extension up to March 2024; and
- (4) to request a further report to a future meeting of the Panel providing an annual update on the Workforce Plan and Action Plan during the period 1 November 2023 to 31 October 2024.

7. Thriving Communities – Operating Model Year 2 Report.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 13 October 2023 by the Director of Strategic Change and Communities providing an update on Thriving Communities operating model and providing the effectiveness of Thriving Communities during 2022/23.

After a Member of the Panel enquired about Youth Work Accreditation, he was advised that programmes which were offered with accreditation helped in their uptake.

Having heard a Member of the Panel in relation to the effect of savings made would have on service delivery, he was advised that a report would be presented to the appropriate meeting of this Council, in the near future.

There was discussion regarding university leavers and modern apprentices involvement with the Programme and it was noted that there was support for people of all ages within South Ayrshire.

The Panel

Decided:

- (1) to note the effectiveness of the new thriving community's delivery model and progress made during 2022/23; and
- (2) to approve the Thriving Communities 'story so far year two report'.

8. Participatory Budgeting Activity in 2022/23

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 13 October 2023 by the Director of Strategic Change and Communities advising the Panel of the Participatory Budgeting (PB) Activity undertaken by Council Services for the period 2022/23.

Following a question from a Member of the Panel, it was noted that there was a variety of ways engagement was undertaken.

Having heard a Member of the Panel, it was agreed that future reports on this matter should include details of budget expenditure.

Having considered the contents of the PB Activity report, attached as Appendix1 to the report, the Panel

Decided: to note the value of budgetary spend influenced through the PB processes.

The meeting ended at 11.18 a.m.