

County Buildings
Wellington Square
AYR KA7 1DR
Tel No: 01292 612436

3 January 2024

**To: Councillors Saxton (Chair), Bell, Cochrane, Cullen, Dixon,
Kilpatrick, Scott and Weir**

All other Elected Members for information only

Dear Councillor

SERVICE AND PARTNERSHIPS PERFORMANCE PANEL

You are requested to participate in the above Panel to be held on **Tuesday, 9 January 2024 at 10.00 a.m.** for the purpose of considering the undernoted business.

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

Yours sincerely

CATRIONA CAVES
Head of Legal and Regulatory Services

B U S I N E S S

1. Declarations of Interest.
2. Minutes of previous meeting of 21 November 2023 (copy herewith).
3. Action Log and Work Programme (copy herewith).
4. South Ayrshire Way Strategic Change Programme - Submit report by the Director of Strategic Change and Communities (copy herewith).
5. Update on ERDF Business Support - Submit report by the Director of Strategic Change and Communities (copy herewith).

For more information on any of the items on this agenda, please telephone Andrew Gibson, Committee Services on 01292 612436, Wellington Square, Ayr or
e-mail: andrew.gibson@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk

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Agenda Item No 2**SERVICE AND PARTNERSHIPS PERFORMANCE PANEL**

Minutes of hybrid webcast meeting on
21 November 2023 at 10.00 a.m.

Present
in County
Buildings:

Councillors Philip Saxton (Chair); Chris Cullen and George Weir.

Present
Remotely:

Councillor Ian Cochrane

Apologies:

Councillors Kenneth Bell, Mark Dixon, Mary Kilpatrick; and Gavin Scott.

Attending
in County
Buildings:

J. Bradley, Director of Strategic Change and Communities; L. Reid, Assistant Director – Strategic Change; W. Carlaw, Service Lead – Democratic Governance; K. Anderson, Service Lead – Policy, Performance and Community Planning; S. McCardie, Co-ordinator - Performance and Community Planning; D. Alexander, Service Lead – Procurement; S. Tyeson, Senior Manager (Planning & Performance); Temporary Chief Superintendent R. Higgins and Chief Inspector K. Lammie, Police Scotland; Group Commander S. Campbell; and Area Commander I. McMeekin, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service; and L. Russell, Committee Services Officer.

Attending
Remotely:

J. Rodden, Service Lead – Facilities Management; J. Tait, Service Lead – Thriving Communities; G. Cockburn, Service Lead – Education Support Services; N. Gemmell, Service Lead – Revenues and Benefits; C. Iles, Service Lead – Planning and Building Standards; F. Ross, Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services; T. Simpson, Service Lead – Corporate Accounting; T. Leijser, Service Lead – Economy and Registration; K. Mullen, Service Lead – ICT Operations; A. Mutch, Service Lead – Destination South Ayrshire; T. Eltringham, Director of Health and Social Care; G. Farrell, Service Lead – Organisational Development and Customer Services; S. McCall, Service Lead – ICT Enterprise Architecture; B. McClean, Head of Community Health and Care Services; A. Deas, Public Health Scotland LIST Analysts.

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 24 October 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.

With reference to Actions (2) and (3) in the Action Log relating to the IJB Annual Performance Report considered at a meeting of this Panel on 19 September 2023, a Member of the Panel requested further clarity on the number of delayed discharges, proactivity in carrying out assessments, making adaptations in individual's homes and whether the delays in adaptations were causing a delay in hospital discharges. The Senior Manager, Planning and Performance advised that there were currently significant challenges in the recruitment within Occupational Therapy; and there were also challenges from partners in recruiting into the care providers. The Director of Health and Social Care further provided assurance that significant scrutiny on activities carried out was undertaken by the IJB Audit Committee, however, it was noted that the biggest issue was recruitment for care providers. Home adaptations was referred to as a complex area as it rested between capacity with the assessors and the contractors.

In relation to the Work Programme, the Panel were advised that "Developer Contributions Update" and "South Ayrshire Way Strategic Change Programme" had been deferred for consideration to the meeting on 9 January 2024.

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 15 November 2023 by the Director of Strategic Change and Communities providing information in relation to the mid-year performance (quarter two) of Police Scotland in South Ayrshire for 2023/24.

Temporary Chief Superintendent Higgins spoke on the contents of the report and referred to his recent change in position to Interim Divisional Commander for Ayrshire.

After a Member of the Panel referred to Page (5) of Appendix 1, "Serious Crime – Drug Supply" and enquired why detections had increased, Interim Divisional Commander Higgins advised that this was due to a locally focused approach across the board, and advances in intelligence and forensics. A further question on the definition of a non-recent incident was confirmed as an incident that was older than twelve months.

Having heard a Member of the Panel with reference to survey results on how safe people felt in their local area and the provisions that were in place, Interim Divisional Commander Higgins reported that there would be an enhanced presence of officers across the festive period together with a change in shift patterns.

Following a discussion on areas in South Ayrshire where speeding was prevalent, Interim Divisional Commander Higgins advised that several areas were targeted on a regular basis which had resulted in a positive impact.

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

Decided: to note the position.

5. **Local Performance Report: Scottish Fire and Rescue**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 14 November 2023 by the Director of Strategic Change and Communities with information about the mid-year performance (quarter two) of the Scottish Fire and Rescue in South Ayrshire.

Area Commander McMeekin spoke on the contents of the report.

In relation to Page 2 paragraph 5.3 of Appendix 1 on the Performance and Service Update Report, a Member of the Panel enquired to the success of Scottish Fire and Rescue in working with their partners to identify unoccupied and derelict buildings across South Ayrshire. Area Commander McMeekin advised that the work to identify unoccupied buildings that were potential targets had been invaluable. It was further noted that certain areas in Troon and Ayr had a high frequency occurrence of deliberate fires being started and it was clarified that operational intelligence and data had been gathered following every incident enabling Scottish Fire and Rescue to target resources. Local authority action teams had observed patterns relating to school holidays and visitors to the areas at peak holiday seasons, and there was a big focus on education as a significant number of deliberate fire settings were linked to young people.

Following a comment from a Member of the Panel concerning the lack of information on outreach in Education, Area Commander McMeekin outlined an example of the work done with their Ayrshire College partnership, where specific programmes were run to encourage people back into employment. It was confirmed that future reports would contain more information including a performance element.

After a discussion concerning domestic fires amongst the elderly community and especially those individuals classed as confused, a Member of the Panel enquired if there were statistics available. Area Commander McMeekin confirmed that there were no statistics available, however, this would be investigated and reported back to the Panel. It was further noted that Scottish Fire and Rescue delivered home fire safety visits to identify those most in need in order that support could be offered to ensure these groups remained as independent as possible.

A Member of the Panel commented on Page 8 of the Pre-Budget Scrutiny report in relation to the Impact of Climate Change and enquired about the changes that had been seen in relation to flooding and fires on heath ground, and to what extent the numbers had increased over the last five years. Area Commander McMeekin advised the Panel

that a change had been noted and Scottish Fire and Rescue were continuing to understand the change to the local environment as well as make improvements to their carbon footprint. It was noted that Ayr Community Fire Station had been recognised as the most energy efficient Station in the Conservation Campaigns as a result of the work that had been carried out.

Following a request for more detail relating to Areas of Improvement within Fire Safety Audits on Page 11, Area Commander McMeekin advised that the 83% referred to in the report related to many different factors and reported that prohibition notices were a last resort and work was being carried out with individuals to avoid potential issues.

After a Member of the Panel referred to the potential future redevelopment of the third block of high-rise flats in Ayr and if this would cause any issues for Scottish Fire and Rescue, Area Commander McMeekin advised that any redevelopment would be continually reviewed, and regular site visits would be carried out to inspect the development and structure.

Having heard from a Member of the Panel in relation to the number of false alarms, Area Commander McMeekin reported that as of 1 July 2023 new legislation on Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) came into force. This changed the way Scottish Fire and Rescue responded to alarms and as a result of this there had been a 25% reduction in false alarm responses, and that it was hoped that a further reduction would be seen in the future.

Having scrutinised the performance reports of Scottish Fire and Rescue, the Panel

Decided: to note the position.

6. Council Plan (2023-2028): First Year: Quarter Two Update (2023/24)

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 14 November 2023 by the Director of Strategic Change and Communities providing an update of the Council Plan (2023-2028): First Year: Quarter Two Update (2023/24).

The Service Lead – Performance, Policy and Community Planning provided an update on the Council Plan and invited questions.

In relation to Page 9 of Appendix 1 within the report, “Spaces and Places”, a Member of the Panel enquired if the action status on the street cleansing review was only relative to Troon. The Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services confirmed that the score was in relation to South Ayrshire as a whole. A follow-up question related to the three priority projects and if these could be disclosed specifically, the Assistant Director – Strategic Change advised that these projects were confidential at this time.

An update on the Station Hotel, Ayr work was requested from a Member of the Panel and the direction of future work, the Service Lead – Planning and Building Standards informed the Panel that priority work was currently being carried out to ensure the Station Hotel was safe.

In relation to Page 22 of Appendix 1 within the report, concerning work being undertaken to promote golf tourism due to the forthcoming Open Golf Championship, it was confirmed that the timescale date of 31 December 2025, was an error. Following a further question relating to the plans for the Troon town centre and the progress that had been made, the Service Lead – Economy and Regeneration advised that plans had

been made and a framework established, however, due to lack of capacity at present the plans had not progressed as fast as had been hoped.

After a Member of the Panel enquired as to how the success of a project was measured it was confirmed that the next report would provide more information on the impact the measures have had.

The Panel

Decided: to note the contents of this report.

7. **Complaints – Scrutiny Update**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 14 November 2023 by the Head of Legal and Regulatory Services providing an update on Complaints – Scrutiny Update for the period 1 April to 30 September 2023.

Following a summary of the report by the Co-ordinator (Registration, Records and Information), a Member of the Panel requested that page numbers be included in future reports.

A Member of the Panel commented on how useful the information contained in the report was and requested that the table detailing a Breakdown of Complaints by Service on pages 4 and 5 in Appendix 1 contain the frequency in the future.

Having heard from a Member of the Panel requesting clarity on the number of complaints received in connection to leisure and namely golf, the Service Lead, Destination South Ayrshire advised that he would provide Members with this information.

In relation to Page 2 of Appendix 1, a Member of the Panel made a request for further information on the Community Care section, the Co-ordinator (Registration, Records and Information) outlined the additional training that had taken place, and this had been reflected in the statistics.

The Panel

Decided:

(1) to note the contents of the report; and

(2) to request a further report to a future meeting of the Panel providing an update on the Council's complaints performance during the period 1 October 2023 to 31 March 2024.

8. **Joint Inspection of Adult Community Health and Care Services**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 14 November 2023 by the Head of Community Health and Care Services in order to provide an overview of the outcome of the Joint Inspection of Adult Services and progress against the recommendations made in the report.

A Member of the Panel commented that the results were good and enquired what the range of possibilities were, the Head of Community Health and Care Services advised that the highest score would be 6 which was excellent and 5 very good. The comments within the report stated that South Ayrshire Council was sector leading and if the current levels continued it was hoped that these higher numbers would be awarded.

A Member of the Panel requested that a further report be submitted in six months to provide a further update.

Having considered the contents of the Joint Inspection of Adult Community Health and Care Services, the Panel

Decided:

- (1) to note and approve the content of the report; and
- (2) to agree that an update be provided to this Panel in six months' time.

The meeting ended at 12.00 p.m.

SERVICE AND PARTNERSHIPS PERFORMANCE PANEL – ACTION LOG

****NOTHING TO REPORT****

| No. | Date of Meeting | Issue | Actions | Assigned to | Update | Completed |
|------------|------------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|------------------|
| | | | | | | |

SERVICE AND PARTNERSHIPS PERFORMANCE PANEL – WORK PROGRAMME

| | Issue | Actions | Assigned To | Due Date To Panel | Latest update |
|----|--|--|---|--------------------------|--|
| 1. | Participatory Budgeting Activity in 2023/24 (Quarters 1 and 2) | 6-monthly update report as part of regular community engagement reporting (April to September 2023) | Director of Strategic Change and Communities | 6 February 2024 | |
| 2. | Developer Contributions | Quarterly update | Director of Housing, Operations and Development | 16 April 2024 | Item deferred - full year report for April 2023 to March 2024 will be provided |
| 3. | Scottish Fire And Rescue – Draft Strategic Plan 2023-26 | Advising Members of consultation process in relation to draft plan | Director of Strategic Change and Communities | 16 April 2024 | Originally being reported to Panel on 13 June, 19 September, 24 October, then 21 November 2023 |
| 4. | Local Performance Report: Police Scotland | Information about mid-year performance | Director of Strategic Change and Communities | 11 June 2024 | |
| 5. | Local Performance Report: Scottish Fire and Rescue – 2023/24 Full Year Performance and Service Update Report | Provide members with information about performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in South Ayrshire | Director of Strategic Change and Communities | 11 June 2024 | |
| 6. | Joint Inspection of Adult Community Health and Care Services | To provide an update | Head of Community Health and Care Services | 11 June 2024 | |

South Ayrshire Council

Report by Director of Strategic Change and Communities to Service and Partnerships Performance Panel of 9 January 2024

Subject: South Ayrshire Way Strategic Change Programme

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the South Ayrshire Way Strategic Change Programme.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Panel scrutinises contents of this report in the context of delivering objectives of the Council's Change Programme.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The Strategic Change Programme was formed in June 2021 to develop and deliver business change projects across the Council. The Programme focusses on 6 themes: 1. Delivering Council Plan priorities; 2. Services which are designed to be fit for purpose and sustainable; 3. Customers at the heart of what we do; 4. Digitally confident; 5. Maximising the use of our assets and; 6. A workforce for the future. The Strategic Change Programme Office comprises a Programme Co-Ordinator and two Project Officers. Each project on the Programme is assigned to a Project Officer.

- 3.2 The Council's approved budget of March 2023 included two specific proposals which impacted the Strategic Change Programme:

3.2.1 a service review of Strategic Change Team and Organisational Development with a combined saving target of £100,000 which lead to the reduction of one FTE project officer from the team; and

3.2.2 a savings target for the Strategic Change Programme of £200,000.

- 3.3 Following implementation of the Council's Budget, a review of the projects on the Programme was undertaken to focus on projects that would have greatest potential to deliver financial benefits.

- 3.4 The Best Value Audit report of 2021 and subsequent recent follow-up thematic reviews from Audit Scotland have highlighted that the Council requires to increase its pace in delivering business change and transformation objectives. The Strategic Change Programme has a number of projects which will support the Council in meeting this recommendation and, while the Audit Commission is encouraged with

the direction of travel of the Programme, it highlighted the need for confirming the cashable benefits that the Programme can deliver this year

4. Proposals

4.1 [Appendix 1](#) provides a dashboard Programme summary, showing the number of projects on the Programme and other high level information. [Appendix 2](#) provides a list of projects on the Programme.

4.2 To date, the Programme has identified savings equating to 16% of its financial target. This is behind where the Programme wishes to be at this stage and the risk in not achieving the target was highlighted to the Strategic Change Executive at its meeting in October. There are a number of factors impacting on the ability to achieve the targets, including:

- Time taken to develop new projects that will deliver financial benefits and contribute to the target;
- No specific funding allocated to the Programme;
- Resource issues with long term sickness absence impacting on project delivery;
- Developing business cases based on sound data and realistic options; and
- Not all business change and transformation activity is channelled through the Change Programme.

4.3 At this stage, it is unlikely that the target will be achieved. Instead, financial benefits identified for current projects are more likely to be profiled for 2024, rather than the current year. However, the focus of the team is still on bringing forward proposals for the projects with greatest chance of delivering financial benefits in the current year.

4.4 As part of the Best Value Action Plan 2023, the team will also be prioritising the communication aspect of the Programme, including increasing the frequency of Learning Events, and sharing best practice and knowledge from current projects. This will help with the objective to develop ideas from staff that can be turned into projects and deliver business change.

4.5 The Programme has worked with almost every Service in the Council to deliver projects since 2021 and has developed a large amount of learning to date, such as the challenges in delivering business change and what has worked in previous projects. Similarly, there is also now broad knowledge of where there are areas of opportunity to improve the way the Council delivers services.

4.6 A review is underway to further develop and strengthen governance and oversight of change and transformation activity across the Council and this will be brought forward to Cabinet for approval in the new year.

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 rejecting the recommendations.

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 the following outcomes in the Council Plan:

- Efficient and Effective Enabling Services

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 Martin Dowey, Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Strategic, and Councillor Ian Davis, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Human Resources and ICT and the contents of this report reflect any feedback provided.

Background Papers Report to Cabinet of 20 June 2023 [South Ayrshire Way Strategic Change Programme](#)

Persons to Contact Kevin Anderson, Service Lead – Performance, Policy and Community Planning
County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr, KA7 1DR
Phone 01292 612982
E-mail kevin.anderson@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

Stuart MacMillan, Coordinator – Strategic Change Programme
County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr, KA7 1DR
Phone 01292 612945
E-mail Stuart.MacMillan@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

Date: 21 December 2023

Appendix 1 – Programme Dashboard Summary

South Ayrshire Way Strategic Change Programme - Dashboard Report - Dec 2023

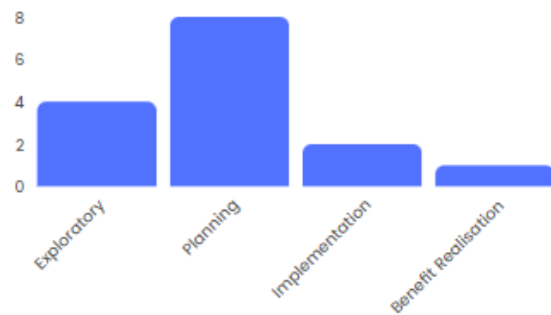
Live projects
15

High rated risks
2

High rated issues
2

Overall health


Project stages



Risks

Cashable Savings - high risk of Programme not making £200k target this year

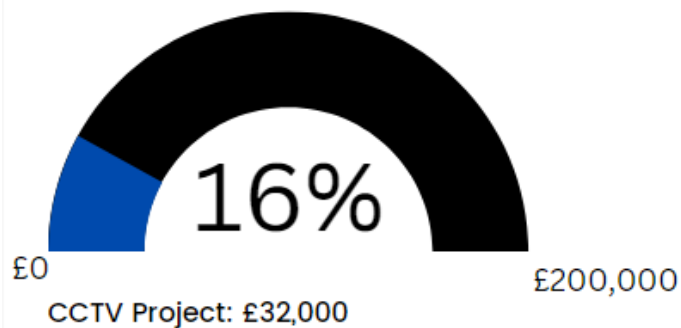


Issues

Long term absence in the team has delayed project delivery

Two projects on hold

Cashable Savings Target



Highlights this period

- Internal audit complete and actions complete
- Staff workshops taken place as part of Service Review of Democratic Services and Legal Services
- Supplier sessions for New Contact platform taken place
- All mobile working operatives now equipped with mobile device in Property Maintenance

Key activity next period

- Progress procurement of phase 1 of Process Automation
- Specification for New Contact Platform to be developed
- Final Report of Roads Operating Model Review
- Learning Event
- Costed business case for New Fleet Operating model

Appendix 2 – List of Projects on the Strategic Change Programme

| Project Title | Project Stage | Project Rag |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Process automation | Exploratory | Green |
| Good Food Nation | Exploratory | Green |
| Dolphin House Review | Exploratory | Amber |
| Active Communities Review | Exploratory | Green |
| New Contact Platform | Planning | Amber |
| Parents Portal | Planning | Green |
| Fleet Review | Planning | Green |
| Corporate Recharging | Planning | Amber |
| Manual Timesheet Replacement | Planning | Red |
| Housing Online | Planning | Red |
| Health and Wellbeing Project | Planning | Green |
| Transforming the Estate - Phase 2 | Implementation | Green |
| Roads Operation Model | Implementation | Green |
| South Ayrshire Wedding Venues | Implementation | Green |
| The Promise | Benefit Realisation | Green |

South Ayrshire Council

Report by Director of Strategic Change and Communities
to Service and Partnerships Performance Panel
of 9 January 2024

Subject: Update on ERDF Business Support

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update to the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Ayrshire Business Gateway Competitiveness Programme, as approved at Cabinet on 15 February 2023.

2. Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that the Panel notes successful completion of the ERDF business support programme

3. Background

3.1 On 15 February 2023, Cabinet approved changes to the ERDF Ambition business support programme delivered by the Economy and Regeneration Service. The changes aimed to maximise ERDF draw down of available funding and enhance support to South Ayrshire Businesses.

3.2 ERDF funds 40% of total Project costs with 60% match funding being funded by the three Ayrshire councils. Each council has a separate budget allocation and is responsible for service delivery within their respective regions. The South Ayrshire budget allocation is as follows, match funding is sourced from the direct award from Scottish Government to the Council's core budget to operate Business Gateway:

| Period | Total Budget | SAC | ERDF | Match |
|---------|--------------|-----|----------|------------|
| 2016-23 | £1,730,534 | | £692,210 | £1,038,314 |

3.3 The original budget projections did not foresee the shock to Small to Medium sized Enterprise business trading arising from the Covid19 pandemic, nor the injection of funds to businesses through UK and Scottish Governments Covid grant schemes. Support to companies through the Business Growth programme therefore focussed instead on business counselling and advice, rather than the provision of growth grant funding. As businesses focussed more on survival than growth, grant drawdown from the project was lower than forecast.

3.4 Recognising the impact that the Covid 19 pandemic was having on delivery of the programme, Scottish Government sought a shift in emphasis from growth to

sustainability, re-start and recovery. As a result of the widening scope of the programme, the costs of all Business Support staff directly engaged in this activity are now deemed eligible expenditure for grant claim purposes.

- 3.5 In May of this year, Scottish Government provided the opportunity to extend the project end date to 30 September 2023 and re-profile the budget. This has allowed SAC to reconsider its forward ERDF profiling, providing an opportunity to maximise drawdown and avoid underspend.
- 3.6 To protect the position of the Council, a budget reprofile was submitted to Scottish Government. This reprofile budgets for an extension of the programme to September 2023 and reduces the budget allocated to grants and expert advice, increases the staffing budget and re-allocates the marketing budget.
- 3.7 The marketing budget line was not required as this activity was delivered on a pan-Ayrshire basis by East Ayrshire Council and was absorbed into core Business Gateway operational costs. On 20 June 2023, Cabinet approved the extension and reprofiling of the ERDF budget to maximise the benefit for South Ayrshire businesses and make best use of the available grant funding.

4. Proposals

- 4.1 The programme is now complete and final reporting actions are underway. The business support team have worked closely with our business base and, between the Cabinet Decision of 20 June 2023 and 30 September 2023, £350,668 of grant support has been invested into 21 South Ayrshire businesses.
- 4.2 During the programme a total of 194 individual businesses have been supported either with grant or consultancy support and approximately 20% in many cases with both.
- 4.3 The programme is now closed. The final claim and reports have been prepared and submitted to the Managing Authority of the ERDF programme. The final claim submitted totals £1,280,633 bringing total costs submitted of £1,663,545. ERDF grant will be drawn down following audit and final verification by Scottish Government. The total anticipated ERDF grant receipt is £665,418. The final claim submitted will be submitted to Scottish Government by the end of December.

| | | Grants | Consultancy | Staffing | Total |
|---|--|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Projected SAC spend | | £703,453 | £146,609 | £880,462 | £1,730,524 |
| 1 st Claim (submitted and paid) | | £95,463 | £5,250 | £0 | £100,713 |
| 2 nd Claim (submitted and paid) | | £202,683 | £79,516 | £0 | £282,199 |
| Final Claim (submitted for auditing inc new and reclaims) | | £375,668 | £24,503 | £880,462 | £1,280,633 |
| Total Claim | | £673,814 | £109,269 | £880,462 | £1,663,545 |
| ERDF receipts @40% | | £269,525 | £43,707 | £352,186 | £665,418 |

4.4 At its session on 28 November, Cabinet heard that the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) is the replacement fund for ERDF. The SPF investment plan was approved by Cabinet on 20 June 2023 and subsequently by Government on 20 September 2023. The SPF investment plan provides a total budget for supporting our businesses of £360,000 for 2023/24 and £630,000 for 2024/25, comprising grants to businesses and Council staff costs. SPF will fund the AMBITION Programme going forward. This programme has been revised and updated, to include three new products: • Green AMBITION; • Digital AMBITION; • Productivity AMBITION.

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 Submission of final claims has been made and is being processed by the Managing Authority. Once remittances have been made, the programme will be closed by the finance team.

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 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 Priority 2 of the Council Plan: Live, Work, Learn (Outcome Work and Economy: Everyone benefits from a local economy that provides opportunities for people and helps our businesses to flourish).

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 **Report to Cabinet of 15 February 2023 - [Business Support – Changes to Ambition Programme](#).**

Report to Cabinet of 20 June 2023 – [European Regional Development Fund \(ERDF\) Reprofiling](#)

Person to Contact **George Hunter, Assistant Director -Communities
County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr, KA7 1DR
Phone 01292 612994
E-mail George.Hunter@south-ayrshire.gov.uk**

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