

SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL.

Minutes of a hybrid webcast meeting
on 7 December 2023 at 10.00 a.m.

Present in County Buildings: Councillors Iain Campbell (Provost), Laura Brennan-Whitefield, Ian Cavana, Alec Clark, Chris Cullen, Ian Davis, Brian Connolly, Julie Dettbarn, Martin Dowey, William Grant, Hugh Hunter, Martin Kilbride, Mary Kilpatrick, Alan Lamont, Lee Lyons, Craig Mackay, Brian McGinley, Bob Pollock, Cameron Ramsay, Philip Saxton, Gavin Scott, Bob Shields, Duncan Townson and George Weir.

Present Remotely: Councillors Kenneth Bell, Ian Cochrane, Mark Dixon and Stephen Ferry.

Attending in County Buildings: M. Newall, Chief Executive; L. McRoberts, Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education; J. Bradley, Director of Strategic Change and Communities; C. Caves, Head of Legal and Regulatory Services; T. Baulk, Head of Finance, ICT and Procurement; C. Cox, Assistant Director – Planning and Development; K. Dalrymple, Assistant Director – Housing and Operations; G. Hunter, Assistant Director – Communities; K. Anderson, Service Lead – Policy, Performance and Community Planning; S. McCall, Service Lead - ICT Enterprise Architecture; A. Mutch, Acting Service Lead – Destination South Ayrshire; C. Iles, Service Lead – Planning and Building Standards; J. Hall, Co-ordinator (Planning Strategy); J. McClure, Committee Services Lead Officer; A. Gibson, Committee Services Officer; L. Russell, Committee Services Officer; C. McCallum, Committee Services Assistant; and E. Moore, Committee Services Assistant.

Attending Remotely: T. Eltringham, Director of Health and Social Care;

1. Provost.

The Provost

- (1) welcomed everyone to the meeting, outlined the procedures for conducting this meeting and advised that this meeting would be broadcast live;
- (2) intimated that no apologies had been received;
- (3) referred to an Additional Report entitled “Appointments to Panels“ which would be considered following Item 5 of this Minute;
- (4) congratulated the Young Carers who won the Championing Inclusion and Diversity Award at the 2023 Scottish Public Service Awards Ceremony for their amazing short film “The Weekend”; and
- (5) welcomed Mike Newall to his first Council meeting as Chief Executive.

2. Sederunt and Declarations of Interest.

The Chief Executive called the Sederunt for the meeting and having called the roll, confirmed that there were no declarations of interest by Members of the Council in terms of Council Standing Order No. 17 and the Councillors’ Code of Conduct.

3. **Minutes of previous meetings**

(1) **Minutes of Previous Meetings of the Council.**

- (a) Provost Iain Campbell, seconded by Councillor Mary Kilpatrick, moved the [Minutes](#) of South Ayrshire Council of 12 October 2023 as a correct record.

The Council

Decided: to approve the Minutes of 12 October 2023 and authorise these minutes to be signed as a correct record.

(2) **Minutes of previous meetings of Panels.**

The Minutes of the undernoted Panels were submitted for information:-

- (i) Audit and Governance Panel of [27 September](#) (Special) and [4 October 2023](#).
 (ii) Cabinet of [26 September](#) and [31 October 2023](#).

Following discussion of the three 'C' paragraphs from the Cabinet meeting of 28 November 2023 and having heard the Head of Legal and Regulatory Services outline the terms of the Standing Orders regarding 'C' paragraphs, the Council

Decided: to continue consideration of these matters to the end of the meeting.

Variation in Order of Business

In terms of Standing Order No. 13.3, the Council agreed to vary the order of business as hereinafter minuted.

- (iii) Chief Officers' Appointments/Appraisal Panel of [13 September 2023](#).
 (iv) Local Review Body of [9 May](#) and [12 September 2023](#).
 (v) Regulatory Panel – Licensing of [28 September](#) and [2 November 2023](#).
 (vi) Regulatory Panel – Planning of [14 September](#) and [11 October 2023](#).
 (vii) Service and Partnerships Performance Panel of [19 September](#) and [24 October 2023](#).
 (viii) Ayrshire Shared Services of [2 December 2022](#) and [19 May 2023](#).

4. **Accounts Commission's Findings on Best Value in South Ayrshire**

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 29 November 2023 by the Director of Strategic Change and Communities advising of the Accounts Commission's findings from the Controller of Audit's Statutory Report on Best Value in South Ayrshire.

The Chief Executive introduced the report and made reference to:-

- (1) paragraph 4.2 of the report where the Accounts Commission had commended the Council for its effective financial management processes; and thanked the Head of Finance, ICT and Procurement and his team for their work on this; and
- (2) paragraph 4.3 when the Accounts Commission had identified the improvements made by the Council.

Councillor Martin Dowey, seconded by Councillor Lyons, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

Discussion took place in relation to:-

- (a) paragraph 4.2, namely "The commission urges the Council to move at pace to establish the expected cashable benefits and baseline activity for the strategic change programme" and how this would be achieved; and the Service Lead – Policy, Performance and Community Planning advised that each project had a detailed business case with expected benefits identified; and that when cashable benefits were identified, the project would be removed from the budget, however, some projects could run for many years and would change as the project advanced. The Chief Executive then advised that a Transformation Team would be established for this purpose; that there were a range of improvement projects which he was confident would deliver cashable benefits; and that an update report would be submitted to Council in due course; and the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education further advised that work was ongoing with each Council service to examine improvement priorities over the next three to five years focussing on key areas such as digitalisation, asset transfer, workforce, etc so that they became themes in terms of planning that work, reducing the number of individual projects into those themes and making improvements as opposed to budget cuts, enhancing services while realising cash benefits;
- (b) the possible use of a benefits tracker; and the Service Lead – Policy, Performance and Community Planning confirmed that the Council did use a benefits tracker;
- (c) it being stated in October 2023 that it was too soon to evaluate the effectiveness of the improvement activity and whether there was now an evaluation on this; and the Service Lead – Policy, Performance and Community Planning advised that, as outlined in Section 4.3 of the report, the work on this evaluation had been carried out from January to April 2023 with the approval of the Council Plan in early March 2023 being the catalyst for change; that the Council had undertaken its performance management framework and service planning process; and that, in terms of the performance measures that Audit Scotland and the Audit Commission had been looking for the Council to establish, this was all contained within that as outlined in the Quarter 2 performance report submitted to the Service and Partnerships Performance Panel of 21 November 2023 which had outlined that the Council was more focussed on targets and that reporting was clearer and more regular;

- (d) paragraph 4.2, namely “the Council should prioritise the introduction of a corporate self-evaluation tool” asking what service level this self-evaluation would target; and the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education advised that self-evaluation would be adopted across the Council based on the Improvement Services Public Service Improvement Framework and that she had recently met with the Accounts Commission to discuss the Council’s approach to that; that the Strategic Change Team would hold a launch day at the end of January 2024 when all Service Leads would be involved looking at the basics of self-evaluation to build up knowledge and that this would become an ongoing part of improvement planning and continuous improvement across all services of the Council;
- (e) whether the corporate self-evaluation tool also included the self-assessment carried out by the Audit and Governance Panel; and the Service Lead – Policy, Performance and Community Planning advised that the Public Sector Improvement Framework was aimed at services and that there were separate measures for Members and Panels to use; and that self-evaluation was for everyone to use as benchmarking for annual improvement actions;
- (f) the Council taking cognisance of the recommendations of Audit Scotland; that Members should be provided with detailed reports on how services would be delivered; that timescales should be placed on the improvements highlighted by Audit Scotland and benchmarking undertaken to ensure that these improvements were progressing appropriately; and that decisions required to be made on evidence and on a business case to ensure the correct decision was being taken; and the Chief Executive advised that there was now a different leadership within the Council; that the recommendations of the Audit Commission had been accepted and discussions had taken place with them on 27 November 2023 when they were satisfied with the Council’s plans; that there would be data driven decision making in future as the Corporate Management Team (CMT) was clear that improvements required to be made and that a Leadership Development Training Programme had commenced with the CMT in conjunction with Elected Members which was a definitive way of demonstrating clear leadership and a change in leadership direction; and that he was very confident that the Council could demonstrate quickly the changes it was being asked to make would be completed. The Service Lead – Policy, Performance and Community Planning further advised that with regards to how matters were reported to Panels, the Audit and Governance Panel had agreed the Best Value Action Plan in October 2023 which had detailed recommendations from Audit Scotland;
- (g) paragraph 4.2, namely “the Council should ensure that it has clear measures of progress against key priorities and improve its public performance reporting” and whether officers were satisfied that the Council was carrying out matters to enable them to achieve this; and the Service Lead – Policy, Performance and Community Planning advised that he was satisfied and that paragraph 4.3 of the report outlined the new Performance Management Framework where there had previously been challenges but changes had been made; and that significant improvements had been made to the ways in which Council Plan was reported;
- (h) whether officers would re-examine decisions taken by Council which had been made without reference to Best Value or a business case, eg the refurbishment of the Citadel Leisure Centre; and the Chief Executive advised that, going forward, business cases would be utilised for all projects; and that detailed plans were being produced for the refurbishment of the Citadel Leisure Centre;

- (i) whether Members could be provided with these plans for the Citadel Leisure Centre and advised of progress; and the Director of Strategic Change and Communities advised that a consultant was currently working on these plans which would provide various options to ensure that the public got the best from the facility; and that an Elected Members' briefing had taken place regarding the concepts for the Citadel and that Members would be consulted on any proposals;
- (j) whether the leadership training would be provided to all officers in a position of leadership and not just those officers at corporate level; and the Director of Strategic Change and Communities advised that a Leadership Development Programme was currently in progress and a report was shortly being submitted to the Executive Leadership Team to discuss how it could be progressed to expedite the launch of this training and that the training would be aimed at Service Leads and Co-ordinators and cascaded down; and
- (k) the Council was moving forward with a new Council Plan, new Chief Executive and a new political make-up; that the Accounts Commission's findings were based on the previous Council Plan and that the Accounts Commission was happy with the progress being made.

The Council, having considered the findings from the Controller of Audit's Statutory Report on Best Value in South Ayrshire, attached as Appendix 1 to the report,

Decided: to note that officers shall advise the Commission of the steps that the Council had agreed to take to respond to the findings and publish the required notice.

5. Commencement of Local Development Plan 3 Preparation and Development Plan Scheme 2023

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 30 November 2023 by the Chief Executive seeking approval to commence the preparation process for the new Local Development Plan and to publish the Development Plan Scheme for Local Development Plan 3.

Councillor Bob Pollock, seconded by Councillor Martin Kilbride, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

Discussion took place in relation to:-

- (1) the significant changes in the way the Local Development Plan would be brought into being and in the way the Council would engage with local communities; that internal policies would require to be reviewed through a Member/Officer Working Group which would lead to a further report being considered at Council making recommendations in relation to existing structures and how these could be strengthened or redeveloped; and that, following approval of this report, the Portal would be available to give the community direct access to influence how the plan was progressed;

- (2) the move to local place plans being welcomed as it gave local people the opportunity to shape their communities; how contentious development sites would tie in with local place plans; and whether those sites rejected at LDP2 required to be reconsidered; and the Service Lead – Planning and Building Standards advised that local place plans were a process for local communities to feed into the evidence report as consideration of the LDP3 progressed; that the call for sites was for developers to bring forward land which was the next stage following evidence gathering and the two things required to be judged together going forward with the plan; and in terms of sites that were previously rejected, every site required to be considered by the Council as circumstances may have changed;
- (3) that a decision required to be made on the Corton site as this had never moved forward which was to the detriment of other sites;
- (4) how the engagement process with children and young people would be carried out as it was an opportunity for children to learn at an early age of their responsibilities and how they could influence their own locality; and the Service Lead – Planning and Building Standards advised that engagement would be carried out with all people in the community and that a Planning Officer would work with the Education Service to carry out engagement in schools and with young people in the Youth Parliament; and that social media would be utilised to advertise the engagement process;
- (5) whether the Portfolio Holder could confirm that the Advisory Group would be cross-party and not solely members of the administration; and Councillor Pollock advised that the Planning Liaison Group was the obvious body to oversee the preparation of the LDP3 and this Group was cross-party;
- (6) welcoming an in-depth consultation with the community and whether there would also be “in person” consultation; and the Service Lead – Planning and Building Standards advised that the Planning Service would be reaching out to as many people as possible and that there would also be face to face consultation;
- (7) the credence given to an objection from a member of the community when a developer wished to proceed; and the Service Lead – Planning and Building Standards advised that this would be an evidence based process which was significantly later in the process at the evidence gathering stage and that the Planning Service would require to justify why sites were included and take a balance of opinions; and that the various stages were set out within the online system which members of the public could sign-up to;
- (8) it being pleasing to see the LDP3 underway and that the consultation process was very thorough; and that the Planning Liaison Group would be a suitable Group to oversee the preparation of the LDP3;
- (9) youth engagement and that a report was being prepared on the formation of a Youth Cabinet which would complement the Youth Parliament; that an experiment was also ongoing at Marr College involving the four Ward Councillors forming a Youth Community Council which had proven very popular and that two representatives of the Youth Community Council had recently attended a meeting of Troon Community Council to make themselves known and to establish links with the Community Council; and that a Community Youth Action Group was currently being formed to ascertain the views of young people in relation to Active Travel as young people were under-represented in terms of consultation and feedback;

- (10) efforts should be made to engage with members of communities that did not have a Community Council as seeking their views and having them included within the LDP3 was vitally important; and that officers should liaise with Elected Members regarding this as Members would be aware of groups active in areas that were not represented by a Community Council;
- (11) the absence of cared for young people, young carers and parent councils within the list of consultees; and there being an opportunity for young people to understand the power they could have to make a difference to their community; and the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education advised that there were various youth pilot schemes presently taking place; that a report on the Youth Participation Strategy would be submitted for approval in the new year; that there would be wider engagement for young carers and care experienced young people; and that a coherent approach would be taken to engagement to ensure that the views of all constituents in South Ayrshire were sought and considered; and
- (12) the importance of recognising the views of all members of the community, especially those harder to reach groups; and that South Ayrshire Council had signed up to be an Age Friendly Council with Age Friendly Groups forming throughout South Ayrshire which should be utilised to garner the views of elderly residents.

The Council

Decided:

- (a) to approve the commencement of work on preparing the next South Ayrshire Local Development Plan (LDP3);
- (b) to approve the Development Plan Scheme 2023 (Appendix 1) for publication and consultation, including the proposed Participation Scheme for public and stakeholder engagement;
- (c) to agree that an invitation be issued to all Community Councils to prepare a Local Place Plan for their area and that this invitation would be followed up with community-based meetings to take place early 2024; and
- (d) to agree that a report be brought to Council on 29 February 2024 recommending member/officer governance arrangements to oversee the preparation of LDP 3 and providing an update on the engagement strategy and the initial programme for community meetings (as per (c) above).

6. Appointments to Panel

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 1 December 2023 by the Head of Legal and Regulatory Services seeking approval to make alterations to the membership of Panels.

Councillor Martin Dowey, seconded by Councillor Lyons, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

Discussion took place in relation to:-

- (1) the political make-up of the Council changing as the SNP Group had nine members when the decision was taken that the SNP Group and Labour Group be the alternate Chair and Vice-Chair of the Audit and Governance Panel and the Service and Partnerships Performance Panel, however, there were now six SNP members on the Council, therefore, this was now not proportionate;
- (2) that it was a Council decision to grant the Chair and Vice-Chair positions of the scrutiny panels to the SNP and Labour Groups and that Councillor Cullen was now no longer a member of the SNP Group, therefore could no longer be Vice-Chair of the Service and Partnerships Performance Panel;
- (3) that the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair of both Panels were granted to the Labour and SNP Groups as the main opposition parties; and
- (4) a meeting taking place in the new year with the Head of Legal and Regulatory Services, the Leader of the Council and the Leaders of the opposition parties to discuss this matter.

In terms of Standing Order No. 19.9, there was no general agreement to the unopposed motion, therefore, the Council moved to a vote for or against the Motion. Twenty Four Members voted for the Motion, Two Members voted against the Motion and two Members abstained and accordingly, the Council

Decided:

- (a) to approve Councillor George Weir as the SNP member (as Vice-Chair) of the Service and Partnerships Performance Panel;
- (b) to note the changes in Party representation identified at paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3 of the report; and
- (c) to request that officers make the required amendments to the list of Panels to reflect these changes.

7. Scheme of Delegation

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 30 November 2023 by the Head of Legal and Regulatory Services seeking approval to amend the Scheme of Delegation following review.

Councillor Martin Dowey, seconded by Councillor Lee Lyons, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

Discussion took place in relation to the format of the report and the changes within the report; and the Head of Legal and Regulatory Services confirmed that she would review the layout of this report for future meetings.

The Council

Decided: to approve the revised Scheme of Delegation (attached as Appendix 1) with effect from 8 December 2023.

Adjournment

The time being 11.15 a.m., the Council adjourned for ten minutes.

Resumption of Meeting

The meeting resumed at 11.25 a.m.

8. Revised Schedule of Meetings

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 29 November 2023 by the Head of Legal and Regulatory Services seeking approval of revisions to the timetables of Council and Panel meetings for the period January 2024 to June 2025.

Councillor Martin Dowey, seconded by Councillor Lee Lyons, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

A Member commented that the changes to the dates of the meetings of the Licensing Board were welcomed as this assisted the licensed trade.

The Council

Decided: to approve revisions to the timetables of Council and Panel meetings for the period January 2024 to June 2025 as detailed in paragraph 4 of the report.

9. Financial Regulations Review

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 29 November 2023 by the Head of Finance, ICT and Procurement seeking approval of the revised Financial Regulations following review.

The Head of Finance, ICT and Procurement introduced the report and requested that an additional recommendation be added, namely *“Officers are requested to consider in the next review of the Financial Regulations whether any amendment is required to paragraph 13. 4 of the Financial Regulations to take account of further office rationalisation and new ways of working.”*

Councillor Martin Dowey, seconded by Councillor Ian Davis, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report with the addition of the above recommendation.

Discussion took place by Members in relation to:

- (1) the requirement for the additional recommendation; and the Head of Finance, ICT and Procurement advised that the current process was around on-premise inventories, eg chairs, tables, IT equipment, etc and that more prescriptive language was required and the introduction of electronic processes;
- (2) commending the Head of Finance, ICT and Procurement and his team for their diligence in ensuring this document was fit for purpose.

The Council

Decided:

- (a) to approve the revised Financial Regulations (Appendix 1), to be effective from 8 December 2023; and
- (b) to agree that officers be requested to consider in the next review of the Financial Regulations whether any amendment was required to paragraph 13. 4 of the Financial Regulations to take account of further office rationalisation and new ways of working.

10. Digital and ICT Strategy 2023-2028

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 29 November 2023 by the Head of Finance, ICT and Procurement seeking approval of the Council's Digital and ICT Strategy covering the period 2023-2028.

Councillor Ian Davis, seconded by Councillor Bob Pollock, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

Discussion took place in relation to:

- (1) commending officers for compiling this strategy as ICT played an important role across the Council; and that it was important to keep up with the opportunities and challenges that technology brought;
- (2) the many ways constituents contacted Elected Members, eg email, Facebook, Whatsapp, text messages, etc and the importance of managing this data efficiently and securely; and requesting an update on the recently developed Caseload Management System which would assist with this; and the Service Lead – ICT Enterprise Architecture advised that this system was currently a work in progress, that some challenges had been experienced around reporting, however, this system should be ready for use within the next few months;
- (3) Elected Members not having received a briefing on this Strategy; and the Service Lead – ICT Enterprise Architecture advised that he would provide a briefing for any Member requiring this;
- (4) the document being very helpful, particularly the emphasis on service provision, resilience and security, however, in-house forensic capabilities was missing from the document; and the Service Lead – ICT Enterprise Architecture advised that it was felt prudent not to put this in the document as it could leave the Council vulnerable to attack putting certain matters in the public domain;
- (5) the training of staff and whether enough training was provided to allow officers to do their job; and the Service Lead – ICT Enterprise Architecture advised that Organisational Development had a large part to play in the Strategy with Graduate Interns providing training and support and that plans were put in place to address training when new systems were introduced; and
- (6) commending the Service Lead – ICT Enterprise Architecture for the very detailed Equalities Impact Assessment outlined at Appendix 2 to the report.

In terms of Standing Order No. 19.9, there was no general agreement to the unopposed motion, therefore, the Council moved to a vote for or against the Motion. Twenty seven Members voted for the Motion, and one Member abstained and accordingly, the Council, having thanked the Service Lead – ICT Enterprise Architecture and his team for their work on this Strategy

Decided: to approve the Council's Digital and ICT Strategy (attached as Appendix 1 to the report).

11. **Golf South Ayrshire – Strategy Update**

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 29 November 2023 by the Director of Strategic Change and Communities providing an update on progress regarding the Golf Strategy (2022-2032); and seeking approval to continue to deliver against the approved strategic objectives.

Councillor Brian Connolly, seconded by Councillor Alec Clark, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

Discussion took place by Members in relation to:

- (1) the date for work commencing on the staff facilities and the building for tractors at Troon and Belleisle Golf Courses; and the Acting Service Lead – Destination South Ayrshire advised that works on the storage and welfare buildings were underway and that a further report would be submitted to Members once these works had been completed;
- (2) the opening hours of the coffee shop at Belleisle; and the Acting Service Lead – Destination South Ayrshire advised that the early closure of the coffee shop had been highlighted in customer feedback and that, as part of the strategy a full service review would be undertaken of the structure and part of that would include identifying additional staffing to address the opening hours;
- (3) highlighting and publicising the positive work being carried out on golf courses to ensure that members of the public were aware of these works taking place and explaining what works were being undertaken;
- (4) the Equality Impact Assessment stating that the implementation of this Policy would have a positive impact on all the groups outlined within that Appendix; and the Acting Service Lead – Destination South Ayrshire advised that there were a range of initiatives to assist people in accessing golf including a golf subsidy scheme and that work was ongoing to encourage as much uptake as possible;
- (5) courses being compliant with modern playing trends; and the Acting Service Lead – Destination South Ayrshire advised that Golf Architects had been appointed to scrutinise the golf courses within South Ayrshire in terms of playability and examining areas with potential health and safety risks to remodel and redesign the courses to ensure they were playable, accessible and fit for modern playing trends;
- (6) concerns regarding health and safety with the proposed restoration of water in ponds at Belleisle and Seafield Golf Courses; and
- (7) this being a progress report highlighting the hard work of the Acting Service Lead – Destination South Ayrshire and his team improving the courses for the general public; and that the Council should be proud of the golf courses and clubhouses.

The Council, having considered the progress made by officers in the implementation of the Golf Strategy (a full update attached as Appendix 1 to the report),

Decided:

- (1) to note the progress made by officers in a programme of works to improve the golf course infrastructure (attached as Appendix 2); and
- (2) to request that the Director of Strategic Change and Communities provide a follow up report to the Service and Partnerships Performance Committee in December 2024.

Adjournment

The time being noon, the Council adjourned for thirty minutes.

Resumption of Meeting

The meeting resumed at 12.30 p.m.

12. South Ayrshire Council's Annual Performance Report 2022/23

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 29 November 2023 by the Director of Strategic Change and Communities providing the 'South Ayrshire Council's - Annual Performance Report 2022/23'.

Councillor Martin Dowey, seconded by Councillor Lee Lyons, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

Discussion took place by Members in relation to:

- (1) the percentage of Council dwellings meeting Scottish Housing Quality Standards and whether these figures had improved in the last six months; and the Service Lead – Policy, Performance and Community Planning advised that he would issue these figures to the Member following the meeting;
- (2) whether this Performance Report had been considered at a meeting of the Service and Partnerships Performance Panel; and the Service Lead – Policy, Performance and Community Planning confirmed that all information contained in the report had previously been scrutinised at that Panel;
- (3) the need to improve the Council's performance management as previous recording systems were not suitably robust, therefore the Council required to ensure processes were in place to improve this; and the Chief Executive advised that, within the Council, there was now new leadership, a new culture and a new way forward; and
- (4) disappointment that there was no Equality Impact Assessment (EAI) attached to this report; and the Service Lead – Policy, Performance and Community Planning advised that reports on performance did not require an EAI as the EAI was to assess what impact a policy or strategy may have on a protected group, however, this report was a retrospective look at performance; and that with the introduction of the new integrated assessment the Council could look back on what had been achieved and measure success more easily.

The Council, having considered the report and commended the Service Lead – Policy, Performance and Community Planning for his work on this matter,

Decided: to approve the content of the ‘Annual Performance Report 2021/22’, attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

13. **Review of South Ayrshire Integration Scheme**

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 29 November 2023 by the Director of Health and Social Care providing an update on progress with the review of the South Ayrshire Integration Scheme (‘the Scheme’) further to the report to Council in June 2023.

Councillor Lee Lyons, seconded by Councillor Hugh Hunter, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

A comment was made by a Member that it would be preferable if officers presenting a report to Council or a Panel attended the meeting in person.

The Council, having noted the progress with the Review of the Integration Scheme made by officers from each of the Councils and NHS,

Decided: to agree that further reports be provided to Council as the review progressed.

14. **Minutes of previous meetings of Panels.**

The Head of Legal and Regulatory Services outlined the provisions of Standing Order No. 13.1(7) in relation to ‘C’ paragraphs and advised that, following discussions with the Chief Executive, Provost and Leaders of the various parties, it was proposed that consideration of the recommendations in the ‘C’ paragraph regarding “Communications Strategy 2023-28 and Communications Team Staffing Proposals” be continued to the meeting of South Ayrshire Council (Special) of 17 January 2024 to allow officers the opportunity to address Members’ concerns prior to that meeting.

In accordance with the Scheme of Delegation and Standing Orders for Meetings, Councillor Martin Dowey, seconded by Councillor Lee Lyons, moved the recommendations as contained in the ‘C’ paragraph of the Cabinet minutes of 28 November 2023 entitled “[Ayr Esplanade Strategy](#)”.

The Council

Decided: to approve the recommendations as contained in the ‘C’ paragraph.

In relation to the recommendations as contained in the ‘C’ paragraph of the Cabinet minutes of 28 November 2023 entitled “[Communications Strategy 2023-28 and Communications Team Staffing Proposals](#)”, the Council

Decided: to continue consideration of the recommendations as contained in the ‘C’ paragraph to the meeting of South Ayrshire Council (Special) scheduled to be held on 17 January 2024.

In accordance with the Scheme of Delegation and Standing Orders for Meetings, Councillor Martin Dowey, seconded by Councillor Lee Lyons, moved the recommendations as contained in the 'C' paragraph of the Cabinet minutes of 28 November 2023 entitled "[Medium Term Financial Plan Update](#)".

The Council

Decided: to approve the recommendations as contained in the 'C' paragraph.

15. Formal Question.

In terms of Council Standing Order No. 26.2, there were submitted [Formal Questions](#) from Councillor Philip Saxton, along with the responses which were made available to all Members.

Councillor Saxton raised supplementary questions in relation to:-

- (1) question 4 and requested copies of the reports to Leadership Panel; and the Chief Executive advised that he would provide these; and
- (2) question 5 requesting further clarification; and the Chief Executive advised that the Assistant Director – Housing and Operations had recently met with a representative from EE who had given an undertaking to submit to the Council proposals for the mast and that, on receipt of these proposals, they would be forwarded to Members.

16. Closing Remarks.

The Provost thanked all in attendance for their contribution and wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The meeting ended at 1.05 p.m.