

SERVICE AND PARTNERSHIPS PERFORMANCE PANEL

Minutes of hybrid webcast meeting on
5 March 2024 at 10.00 a.m.

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

Present
Remotely: Councillors Kenneth Bell, Ian Cochrane and Chris Cullen.

Apologies: Councillors Mark Dixon and Mary Kilpatrick.

Attending
in County
Buildings: G. Hunter, Assistant Director – Communities; W. Carlaw, Service Lead – Democratic Governance; J. Tait, Service Lead – Thriving Communities; and A. Gibson, Committee Services Officer.

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 9 January 2024 ([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.

Having heard the Assistant Director – Communities give a verbal update on the Action Log and Work Programme, he advised that in relation to no.3 on the Action Log, relating to “Update on ERDF Business Support” he would report back to this Panel on progress of the Ambition Fund.

A Member of the Panel stated that, in his view, the actions relating to numbers 1 and 2 in the Action Log arising from the South Ayrshire Way Strategic Change Programme report considered at this Panel on 9 January 2024 were not yet complete, but had been marked as such. The Assistant Director – Communities advised that he would update the Action Log on these entries with further updates relating to the Shaping our Future Council Briefing sessions.

Having heard a Panel Member, it was agreed that the Assistant Director – Communities would provide information in the column “Latest Update” in respect of all the entries in the Work Programme, for future meetings.

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. Community Learning and Development (CLD) Progress Visit 2023

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 22 February 2024 by the Director of Strategic Change and Communities providing information on the outcome and feedback from the Community Learning and Development (CLD) progress visit 2023.

A Member of the Panel enquired as to detail on the good practice that the inspectors had identified which had still to be reported on. The Service Lead - Thriving Communities advised that there was to be no follow-up visit however the inspectors had asked for case studies from particular areas, namely school leaver destination and approach and the modern apprenticeship programme .

Having heard a Member of the Panel, it was confirmed that a report had been considered at Cabinet on 14 February 2024 seeking approval to consult on a new CLD Plan 2024-2027. It was also noted that the report contained information on the progress visit.

After a Member of the Panel requested detail on the current position of the South Ayrshire Youth Forum, he was advised that a report on this matter would be presented to Cabinet in due course and that there was ongoing work on the Youth Cabinet and Council Youth Strategy.

Having heard a Member of the Panel enquire as to officers’ views on the proposed areas for development, the Service Lead - Thriving Communities responded that identified areas included voices of young people, building capacity within our communities for example, work in Dundonald, Glendoune and Wallacetown and that what was being requested could be achieved by the Council.

The Panel

Decided:

- (1) to approve the report and findings from the CLD progress visit contained in Appendix 3 of the report and recognise the positive feedback from HM Inspectors; and
- (2) to agree that the findings from the report be shared with partners and published.

5. Girvan's Story, Heritage and Place Programme.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 22 February 2024 by the Director of Strategic Change and Communities providing an update on activities and outlining key programme events in regard to Girvan's Story, Heritage and Place Development Phase activities over the next year.

Members of the Panel referred to the report stating that applications were approved by HES and NLHF in Spring 2023 and that the Girvan's Story Project was awarded £170,000 in development stage funding and requested a breakdown of how the amount awarded was being utilised. The Assistant Director – Communities responded and advised that £70,000 was being used for salaries, £70,000 for consultation fees and £30,000 for community engagement. It was agreed that the Assistant Director Communities would provide a Briefing Note to Members relating to details on the consultants that would be used and a breakdown of the fees.

A Member of the Panel referred to the Heritage and Place Programme (H&PP) with applicants being encouraged to apply to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) to part match-fund applications to their own H&PP and asked for further details on this matter. The Assistant Director - Communities advised that match funding costs would not be known at this stage and that he would provide a Briefing Note to Members on the costs detailed within this report.

Having heard a Member of the Panel, it was noted that the Assistant Director - Communities would respond directly to a Panel Member after the meeting in respect to the word "Route" used in paragraph 5.2 of the report.

A Member of the Panel intimated his congratulations to the staff that had been involved in this Programme and the community engagement that would be undertaken.

The Panel, having acknowledged the progress made to date in terms of a successful grant funding application to Historic Environment Scotland and the National Lottery Heritage Fund, including recent formal Permission to Start

Decided: to note the contents of the report and supported the approaches and activities, as set out in the report.

The meeting ended at 10.35 a.m.