

SERVICE AND PARTNERSHIPS PERFORMANCE PANEL

Minutes of hybrid webcast meeting on
14 January 2025 at 10.00 a.m.

Present
in County
Buildings: Councillors Chris Cullen (Chair), Kenneth Bell and George Weir.

Present
Remotely: Councillors Ian Cochrane and Mark Dixon.

Apologies: Councillors Lee Lyons and Gavin Scott.

Attending
in County
Buildings: J. Bradley, Director of Communities and Transformation; K. Anderson, Assistant Director – Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance; W. Carlaw, Service Lead – Democratic Governance; H. Murphy, Service Lead – Destination South Ayrshire; I. McMeekin, Area Commander – Scottish Fire and Rescue Service; S. Cameron, Station Commander – Scottish Fire and Rescue Service; S. Campbell, Group Commander - Scottish Fire and Rescue Service; K. Hancox, Committee Services Officer; and C. McCallum, Clerical Assistant.

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 November 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.

Following a request from a Member of the Panel that Panel briefings take place regarding Action Log updates, the Assistant Director – Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance confirmed that would be arranged.

The Panel

Decided:

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

4. Local Performance Report: Scottish Fire and Rescue.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 23 December 2024 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education providing Members with information about the mid-year performance (quarter two) of Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in South Ayrshire for 2024/25.

Following questions and comments from Members including:

- (1) an update on the FireSkills programme and if anyone had completed the qualification, the Area Commander – Scottish Fire and Rescue Service advised that there had been a number of people accredited the SCQF Level 4 qualification and anticipated four hundred people to gain this annually;
- (2) further information on the reporting style which detailed incidents per 10,000 population and suggested it may be beneficial to view other demographics such as population density and ages, the Area Commander – Scottish Fire and Rescue Service confirmed that wider demographics could be considered for local areas and the Station Commander – Scottish Fire and Rescue Service provided information on the Incident Recording System (IRS);
- (3) as the Human Factors percentage of 39% was responsible for Accidental Dwelling Fires, what did the rest of the percentage contain; and the Area Commander – Scottish Fire and Rescue Service advised that the biggest cause of Accidental Dwelling Fires in South Ayrshire were cooking related, and that further information could be provided which contained a wide range of factors if required;
- (4) clarification on what terminology included figures that may involve the elderly (previously falling under “confusion”), the Area Commander – Scottish Fire and Rescue Service advised that this had now come under “Distraction” and that

working with partners such as NHS and local authorities, the Fire Service was trained and had an awareness of what concerns to look out for involving elderly people which would lead to home safety checks;

- (5) concerns regarding the figure showing only 19% of homes recorded as “Broadly Compliant” from Home Fire Safety Visits; and the Area Commander – Scottish Fire and Rescue Service advised that the Fire Service was responsible for providing information in relation to safety and giving advice to local residents in home properties; and they had no statute of responsibility for enforcing the Fire Safety (Scotland) Regulations outwith Part 3 of the Fire (Scotland) Act which dealt with care homes, hotels etc;
- (6) that it would be beneficial to include more contextual information, including an executive summary within the report alongside the graphical information; and the Area Commander – Scottish Fire and Rescue Service advised that draft plans had been prepared which included further information and that this would be provided for Members consideration;
- (7) what the timescale had been for the Strategic Plan and the Local Fire Plan; and the Area Commander – Scottish Fire and Rescue Service advised that once the consultation process had been completed, the Strategic Plan would be examined in July which would consequently lead to the review of the Local Fire Plan;
- (8) regarding the Retained Duty System – Appliance Availability and why there had been a significant difference in the percentages for Troon – 1 and Troon – 2; and the Group Commander - Scottish Fire and Rescue advised that the main appliance at Troon had been well staffed and that the secondary appliance was specialist equipment which had faced staffing issues. It had also been noted by the Area Commander – Scottish Fire and Rescue that contracts and terms and conditions for the Fire Service had now changed to offer more flexibility to assist with employability;
- (9) the High Reach Appliance which had previously been moved from Ayr to Kilmarnock and if there had been a negative impact from this; and the Area Commander – Scottish Fire and Rescue Service advised that they had not seen a significant impact from this and provided further insight into investments for equipment and staff training. It was agreed that it would be arranged to show Members of the Panel the new vehicle investment at a later date;
- (10) further information regarding Deliberate Fire Setting figure and whether the trend had increased, decreased or if there had been spikes in certain ward areas; and the Area Commander – Scottish Fire and Rescue advised that an email response would be provided;
- (11) in relation to Deliberate Fire Setting – Secondary Fire Ratio by Activity Type and the high percentage (40%) for Refuse and what action had been taken for this; and the Area Commander – Scottish Fire and Rescue Service confirmed that the data received had been used to create action plans and that the Fire Service had good partnerships with the local authority and Police Scotland to assist with tackling the issues noted; and
- (12) if the public could self-refer for home safety inspections; and the Area Commander – Scottish Fire and Rescue Service advised that this could be

done although the response would be based on information provided whether they qualified for a home visit or to receive safety information.

Having scrutinised the performance report of Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in South Ayrshire, the Panel

Decided: to note the performance report of Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and to provide feedback to the Local Senior Officer.

5. The International Ayr Show – Festival of Flight 2024.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 23 December 2024 by the Director of Communities and Transformation providing Members with an update regarding the delivery of The International Ayr Show – Festival of Flight 2024.

Having heard a Member of the Panel enquire to the figure for the cost to deliver the Ayr Show shown under Proposals 4.2 as £1,185m, the Director of Communities and Transformation confirmed the figure should show £1.185m.

A Member of the Panel asked if other events in South Ayrshire had been negatively affected by the Ayr Show spend, the Director of Communities and Transformation advised that there had been no events cancelled as a result of the Ayr Show and that funding had not been taken from other events.

Having heard a Member of the Panel request further information in relation to the unbudgeted costs of £243,000 which had been covered by an over-recovery of payroll turnover within the Directorate, the Director of Communities and Transformation advised that these funds arose when a post had been vacated and the budget had not been used until the new post holder had been employed.

Following queries from Members in relation to the Economic Impact Assessment (EIA), it was confirmed that the full EIA for 2024 would be presented in 2025 and that Members would receive a briefing once it had been completed.

A Member of the Panel requested information on how it would be ensured that profits were realised and sustained, the Director of Communities and Transformation advised that, due to following the strict procurement process for contracts, the costs for the 2024 Ayr Show, for various reasons did not represent best value for the Council. However, for 2025 they were working closely with procurement to find the best options.

Having heard a Member of the Panel ask if there were plans to expand revenue streams and sponsors, the Director of Communities and Transformation advised that additional sponsors were continuously sought and increasing food and bar provision and VIP areas had been looked at to increase revenue streams. It had also been advised that the intention was that the Ayr Show to remain as a non-ticketed event.

A Member of the Panel requested information on the impact the Ayr Show had on hotel accommodation, and what areas were impacted, the Director of Communities and Transformation advised that accommodation had previously been known to be fully booked throughout South Ayrshire meaning that bookings had to be made outwith the immediate area expanding to areas such as Kilmarnock and Glasgow.

The Panel

Decided:

- (1) to note the progress made by officers in the delivery of The International Ayr Show – Festival of Flight 2024 (a detailed report was outlined in Appendix 1);
- (2) to note the Economic Impact Assessment Report for The International Ayr Show – Festival of Flight 2023 (a detailed report was outlined in Appendix 2); and
- (3) to note the income and expenditure report contained in Appendix 3.

The meeting ended at 11.20 a.m.

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