

SERVICE AND PARTNERSHIPS PERFORMANCE PANEL

Minutes of hybrid webcast meeting on
10 March 2026 at 10.00 a.m.

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

Attending Remotely: Councillors Ian Cochrane, Stephen Ferry and Lee Lyons.

Apology: Councillor Kenneth Bell.

Attending in County Buildings: K. Anderson, Assistant Director – Corporate Policy Strategy and Performance; L. Reid, Assistant Director – Transformation; J. Tait, Acting Assistant Director – Communities; A. Mutch, Service Lead – Sport, Leisure and Golf; S. McCall, Service Lead – Transformation; D. Mackintosh, Co-ordinator – Legal Services (Litigation); S. Yeardley, Co-ordinator – Transformation (Assets) J. Chapman, Committee Services Officer and C. McCallum, Clerical Assistant.

Attending Remotely: H. Anderson, Acting Service Lead – Thriving Communities; C. Richards, Co-ordinator – Transformation; B. Mulgrew, Co-ordinator – Transformation.

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 meetings.

The **Minutes** of 11 February 2026 ([issued](#)) and 26 February 2026 – Special ([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 Assistant Director - Corporate Policy, Strategy, and Performance advised

- (1) that there was one action recorded on the log, to which the Service Lead - Transformation had provided a detailed response; and
- (2) that the Work Programme was up to date; however, there was a request from the previous meeting concerning the reasons for deferral and that this information would be incorporated into the latest update column moving forward. Cleansing issues related to due dates had been highlighted and an update would be provided to the next panel.

Questions were raised and comments made by Members in relation to:

- (a) whether future meetings would proceed considering Purdah; and the Co-ordinator – Legal Services, confirmed that they would take place as normal;
- (b) providing an explanation as to why No 11 – Additional Resources Social Care Support was deferred from 13 January 2026 until June 2026; and the Assistant Director – Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance advised that he would obtain this information and provide it to Panel Members; and
- (c) how were the reports in respect of Item 4 -The Work Force Plan and Item 6 the South Ayrshire Golf South Ayrshire Strategy, affected by the recent budget decision; and the Assistant Director – Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance indicated that the Work Force Plan was deferred due to the potential impact of the Budget on it, and it would be presented to the next Panel for discussion before being referred to Cabinet. Additionally, the Service Lead - Sport, Leisure and Golf mentioned that concerning Golf, he did not expect a significant impact based on the fees, charges, and proposed savings, but he would be able to provide more detailed feedback in April or May.

The Panel,

Decided:

- (i) to note the current position with regard to the Action Log;
- (ii) to note the current status of the Work Programme.

4. **Prestwick Leisure Centre.**

There was submitted a report of 17 February 2026 ([issued](#)) by the Director of Communities and Transformation providing the Panel with information on the performance of Prestwick Leisure Club since reopening the facility in November 2025 following refurbishment.

Questions were raised and comments made by Members in relation to:

- (1) the figures being encouraging but how did they reflect the time of year; and the Service Lead - Sport, Leisure and Golf advised that a comparison from the previous year had been carried out which showed the figures had doubled;
- (2) Learn to Swim - how far was there scope to increase; and the Service Lead - Sport, Leisure and Golf advised that there was scope to increase by 5-10%;
- (3) what methods were used to keep in contact with customers during the closedown; and the Service Lead - Sport, Leisure and Golf advised that the methods used were social media, e-mails and the Leisure App which 10,000 customers used;
- (4) had accessibility improved within the pool; and the Service Lead - Sport, Leisure and Golf stated that the biggest change was within the changing village and that every opportunity had been taken to improve accessibility;
- (5) what engagement was there with Service Users to improve and enhance the experience; and the Service Lead - Sport, Leisure and Golf advised that the first 12 months was critical to understand the impact of snagging issues and that there was an ongoing detailed tracker with the contactor to resolve any issues;
- (6) had the South Ayrshire swim team and early bird sessions been re-instated; and the Service Lead - Sport, Leisure and Golf confirmed that they had;
- (7) what the overall annual cost of running the Prestwick Centre was; and the Service Lead - Sport, Leisure and Golf advised that he did not have these figures but would respond to Members following the meeting;
- (8) what the estimated annual income projection for the Prestwick Centre would be; and the Service Lead - Sport, Leisure and Golf stated that it was projected to be between £90,000 - £100,000 of annual membership growth with the addition of £44,000 annual energy efficiency savings; and
- (9) the effect of the Troon closure on Service Users at the Prestwick Centre was discussed; and the Service Lead - Sport, Leisure and Golf indicated that, at this point, there had been a favourable change, with Service Users opting to remain at Prestwick.

The Panel,

Decided: to scrutinise the performance report of Prestwick Leisure Club and provide feedback to the Service Lead - Sport, Leisure & Golf.

5. Thriving Communities Progress Report 2024/2025.

There was submitted a report of 16 February 2026 ([issued](#)) by the Director of Communities and Transformation providing the Service and Partnerships Performance Panel with an update on the performance and impact of Thriving Communities during 2024/25.

Questions were raised and comments made by Members in relation to:

- (1) what the level of engagement within the activities was represented by Thriving Communities; and the Acting Assistant Director – Communities advised that Thriving Communities was actively engaged with Say It Out Loud;
- (2) what the strategic framework for the funding mechanisms entailed; and the Acting Assistant Director – Communities advised that the framework was complex and provided examples to Members;
- (3) what training opportunities were available for staff; and the Acting Assistant Director – Communities advised that a comprehensive workforce strategy was established, focusing on investing in staff to achieve CLD qualifications at University, facilitating inter-agency training, and promoting modern apprenticeships;
- (4) what areas of work/activities was being undertaken within the Kyle Ward; and the Acting Assistant Director – Communities gave a brief breakdown and advised that he would be happy to provide an update offline;
- (5) what activities were available at the Tennis and Fitness Club; and the Acting Assistant Director – Communities advised that he did not have the information but would obtain it and share offline with Members;
- (6) what activities the Bowling Clubs who received large grants were offering; and the Acting Assistant Director – Communities advised of the strategy being implemented to secure funding for the Communities, enabling them to assume control of their assets, provided an example and advised if Members required information on any specific projects he would be happy to provide this; and
- (7) Modern Apprenticeships; and the Assistant Director – Corporate Policy Strategy and Performance provided an update to Members.

The Panel,

Decided: to approve the report and note the activity, performance, outcomes and achievements delivered during 2024/25 (Appendix 1).

6. Shaping our Future Council.

There was submitted a report of 20 February 2026 ([issued](#)) by the Director of Communities and Transformation providing the Panel with an update on the progress of Shaping Our Future Council transformation activity.

Questions were raised and comments made by Members in relation to:

- (1) what extent the components within appendices 1 and 2 were discreet and to what extent did they overlap in terms of the activity or organisation; and the Assistant Director - Transformation and the Service Lead – Transformation offered clarification, and it was noted that future reports would include more narrative addressing interdependencies.
- (2) how many risks were represented within appendices 1-4 at page 127; and the Service Lead - Transformation advised that there were 9;
- (3) where in the list of aspects did the duration of projects and the timing of key milestones appear in relation to appendix 2, page 91; and the Service Lead – Transformation stated that this was part of the first initial high-level messaging and if it was not displayed there, it would be updated to reflect;
- (4) change management; a Member of the Panel gave his views;
- (5) prioritising of projects; and the Assistant Director – Transformation advised that year one priority meant when the project was scheduled to commence and not complete and provided examples to Members;
- (6) Solar Farm consultation; and the Service Lead – Transformation (Assets) advised that Solar Farm phase 2 had been completed and approval had been sought and granted to proceed to phase 3 by Cabinet and that Public Consultation would be part of the planning process within phase 3 of the project;
- (7) Dailly Community Centre; and the Service Lead – Transformation (Assets) stated that South Ayrshire Council did not own the Community Centre, that it was leased from a Private Ownership and would not be closed but transferred to a local Community Group;
- (8) how were the results of the consultations communicated to decision makers; and the Service Lead -Transformation explained that many of the consultations listed were not undertaken by Transformation and provided Members with examples. The Assistant Director – Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance further advised that Transformation team was moving in the right direction regarding community consultation;
- (9) transparency; and the Assistant Director – Corporate Policy Strategy and Performance advised that within part of the Integrated Impact Assessment there was a link within the report which when clicked upon provided more detail of how the public consultation had influenced decision making; and
- (10) Scotland Excel Procurement Review; and the Service Lead -Transformation advised that this project has been taken forward by the Chief Financial Officer.

The Panel,

Decided:

- (a) to note the update on transformation activity including the 'Shaping Our Future Council' Dashboard Report at Appendix 1i; the Portfolio On A Page Appendix 1ii; Portfolio Programme Plan 1iii; Portfolio Risk Register 1iv, and Benefits Report at Appendix 1v;
- (b) to note the mechanisms and measures that had been introduced to enhance stakeholder and community engagement including the Transformation and Communications Approach at Appendix 2; and;
- (c) to note that the next update on Shaping Our Future Council will be presented to Service and Partnerships and Performance Panel in September 2026, in line with the agreed scrutiny and reporting arrangements.

The meeting ended at 11:30 a.m.