

SERVICE AND PARTNERSHIPS PERFORMANCE PANEL

Minutes of hybrid webcast meeting on
19 May 2026 at 10.00 a.m.

- Present
in County Buildings: Councillors Philip Saxton (Chair), Stephen Ferry, Brian McGinley, Gavin Scott and George Weir.
- Attending Remotely: Councillors Kenneth Bell, Ian Cochrane and Lee Lyons.
- Attending in County Buildings: M. Inglis, Director – Health and Social Care Partnership; S. Marshall, Head of Community Health and Care Services; K. Anderson, Assistant Director – Corporate Policy Strategy and Performance; J. Tait, Acting Assistant Director – Communities; H. Anderson, Acting Service Lead – Thriving Communities; S. McCardie, Service Lead – Performance, Community Planning and Sustainability; D. Mackintosh, Co-ordinator – Legal Services (Litigation); K. Hancox, Committee Services Officer and C. McCallum, Clerical Assistant.
- Attending Remotely: F. Ross, Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services.
- In Attendance: Chief Superintendent - S. Chow; Chief Inspector - S. McGrath; and Chief Inspector - G. Griffiths, Police Scotland; Area Commander - K. Murphy and Group Commander - G. Hoey, Scottish Fire and Rescue.

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 10 March 2026 (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 stated that there were no outstanding actions and the Work Programme was up to date.

The Panel

Decided:

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

4. **Local Performance Report: Police Scotland.**

There was submitted a report of 5 May 2026 ([issued](#)) by the Chief Executive providing the Panel with information about the quarter four performance (2025/2026) of Police Scotland in South Ayrshire.

Chief Superintendent Chow provided the Panel with a detailed overview of the work undertaken by Police Scotland between 30 September 2025 to 31 March 2026.

Questions were raised by Members in relation to:

- (1) the missing person reports, specifically the "Not at Home" protocol and when would a young person be moved to a full missing person investigation; and the Chief Inspector McGrath advised these cases were progressed on an individual basis based on respective patterns, communication and indicators following ongoing risk assessments. It was further confirmed this protocol applied to the whole police force;
- (2) the effects of domestic violence on families and child development; and the Chief Superintendent advised that support was provided by officers, multi-agency partners, Victim Support Scotland and various charities; and noted the strong safeguarding team within Ayrshire;
- (3) the incidents of mental health cases where a police response may not be required; and Chief Superintendent Chow advised that Police Scotland were in collaboration with partners in the National Health Service (NHS) and were currently reviewing pathways. The Head of Community Health and Care Services further advised that this had been a priority area for the NHS;
- (4) the development of young people through youth work; and the Assistant Director – Communities confirmed that youth work was strong throughout South Ayrshire through partnership working with Police Scotland and early intervention work. Chief Superintendent Chow also provided information regarding a tri-service meeting involving the Scottish Ambulance Service and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service where training had been discussed;

- (5) the local custody centres; and the Chief Superintendent confirmed there were two custody centres within Ayrshire although these were not open at all times due to challenges with demand and resourcing issues, it was also noted that the custody operating model was currently under review. It was requested that an update would be provided to a future Panel;
- (6) whether officer assaults involved other emergency services and if a breakdown was available; and Chief Inspector McGrath advised that the vast majority of assaults were against the police and that there had been no official breakdown available;
- (7) concerns regarding the increasing number of assaults against teachers in schools; and Chief Inspector McGrath advised that campus officers worked with teachers and liaised with young people to build information and reduce incidents;
- (8) the body worn cameras and if the other emergency services had access to these; and Chief Inspector McGrath advised that Police Scotland were the only service that had access to body worn cameras, however noted that they were in collaboration with the Scottish Ambulance Service and would attend when the risk of violence was present;
- (9) the work with Criminal Justice Partners/Scottish Government in relation to officer assaults and what had been involved both nationally and locally; and Chief Inspector McGrath advised that there were ongoing discussions and negotiations with the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Office to highlight the impact of officer assaults;
- (10) the increase in fire raisings; and Chief Inspector McGrath advised that there had been no link or pattern established and there had been no repeat locations or personnel involved;
- (11) the reduction in house break-ins; and Chief Inspector McGrath advised that there had been a lot of local work for prevention and intervention, which had reduced instances within South Ayrshire; and
- (12) staffing resources; and Chief Superintendent Chow advised that staff levels were maintaining steadily including fewer retirements, new probationers starting and internal transfers.

Chief Inspector Griffiths gave a presentation to the Panel on Police Scotland Youth Volunteers. Clarification was sought by a Member if youth volunteers progressed on to join the Police force; it was advised that there had been multiple volunteers from the programme who had become employees.

The Panel,

Decided: to scrutinise the quarter four (2025/2026) performance report of Police Scotland in South Ayrshire and provide feedback to the Divisional Commander.

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

There was submitted a report of 30 April 2026 ([issued](#)) by the Chief Executive providing the Panel with information about the quarter three and four performance (2025/2026) of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) in South Ayrshire.

Area Commander Murphy provided the Panel with an overview of the work undertaken by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) in South Ayrshire quarter three and quarter four (2025-26).

Area Commander Murphy responded to a query from the previous Panel in relation to response times in South Ayrshire. It was advised that the response time across South Ayrshire was nine minutes from receiving the call to arriving at the scene.

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

- (1) seeking more context throughout the report; and requesting deliberate fire setting and unwanted fire alarm signals data to be broken down by Council wards; and the Area Commander Murphy advised this would be considered for future reports;
- (2) the high figure of false alarms and why schools were not mentioned within property types for unwanted fire alarms; and the Area Commander Murphy advised the figure was high due to the requirement to respond to all calls to investigate and further noted that some commercial properties, such as schools, had trained staff who were able resolve a false alarm without the requirement of the SFRS attending; and
- (3) recruitment; and Area Commander Murphy confirmed that recruitment was continually ongoing on a national basis, there had been an increase in personnel and that he was comfortable that the current staffing number was suitable.

The Panel,

Decided: to scrutinise the quarter three and four (2025/2026) performance report of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in South Ayrshire and provide feedback to the Local Senior Officer.

6. Council Plan (2023-2028): Quarter 4 Update (Year 3 – 2025/2026).

There was submitted a report of 30 April 2026 ([issued](#)) by the Chief Executive advising Members on progress that had been made during the third year of the Council Plan.

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

- (1) the transformation of the Citadel Leisure Centre and if there would be any impact on progress as a result of the decision to cease the diving facility; and the Acting Assistant Director – Communities confirmed there had been no impact in relation to this;
- (2) the 5G Innovation Regions Project, and the Acting Assistant Director – Communities advised that installation had been completed at the Low Green to support major events and analytics from a recent event were under review;

- (3) the private 5G network at Spirit's Aerospace Innovation Centre and if it had been completed; and it was advised that a response would be provided in writing following the meeting by the Lead Project Officer – Ayrshire Growth Deal;
- (4) further information in relation to the Coastal Change Adaptation Plan; and it was advised that a response would be provided in writing following the meeting by the Co-ordinator – Sustainability, Climate Change and Nature;
- (5) further information on the Business Continuity scenario-based event planned in relation to the Cyber Roadmap; and it was advised a response would be provided in writing following the meeting by the Service Lead – ICT Operations;
- (6) concern regarding the unforeseen building works at Troon Early Years Centre and a request for an update on the current deadline for completion of July 2026; and the Assistant Director – Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance advised on behalf of the Service Lead – Professional Design Services that there had been issues with the existing building fabric which had caused delays, however, the matters had been resolved and were progressing well. It was advised further information would be provided in writing following the meeting by the Service Lead – Professional Design Services;
- (7) information regarding the delay of the acquisition of a green/garden waste site at Auchincruive; and the Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services advised that papers had been with the legal team, and the acquisition had been near completion with procurement which would provide an opportunity to relocate green waste;
- (8) what the work involved in relation to Working for Wallacetown (Housing Led Regeneration); and the Assistant Director - Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance advised that a programme had been in the early stages, and a policy officer would be recruited for expertise in housing led regeneration;
- (9) affordable housing provisions; and the Assistant Director - Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance advised that two hundred and seventy-seven affordable houses had been provided over the past three years which had taken up capacity to locate new sites and noted that the process of acquiring new sites was ongoing; and
- (10) how the actions improved the organisation and seeking further context; and the Assistant Director - Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance informed the report was for scrutiny and accountability and in keeping with Audit Scotland's expectations of performance reporting. . The Council's annual report , published in December, provides a more holistic and balanced view of overall performance.

The Panel,

Decided: to note the Quarter 4 progress (Year 3) of the Council Plan (2023-2028) attached as Appendix 1.

7. **Audit Scotland Report: Delayed Discharges.**

There was submitted a report of 2 April 2026 ([issued](#)) by the Director for South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership advising Members of the recent publication of Audit Scotland's 'Delayed Discharges; A symptom of the challenge facing health and social care' report, attached as Appendix 1.

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

- (1) the Hospital at Home Initiative; and the Head of Community Health and Care Services advised the initiative was managed by the health board and analysis would be provided to Members following the meeting;
- (2) the need for an increase in resources for prevention; and the Head of Community Health and Care Services advised there was locality planning partnerships across South Ayrshire which provided support, the connect model over the localities which had allowed advice to be sought and screening programmes to identify health issues. It was confirmed that the partnerships were committed to improvement; and
- (3) whether the assessment issues had caused delayed discharges due to unsuitable housing and had funding been an issue; and the Director of Health and Social Care advised that currently funding had not been an issue and that capacity issues in regard to the waiting list to have adaptations carried out had been more of a problem.

The Panel,

Decided: to consider the key messages in the report and feedback any comments to officers.

8. **Community Learning and Development Plan 2024-2027 Mid-term Report.**

There was submitted a report of 13 April 2026 ([issued](#)) by the Director of Communities and Transformation providing the Panel with an update on progress made by the Community Learning and Development (CLD) Partnership toward delivering the priorities set out in the CLD Plan 2024-2027.

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

- (1) thanking officers involved;
- (2) the youth work opportunities for developing young people; and the Acting Assistant Director – Communities advised youth work opportunities within South Ayrshire offered a variety of programmes developed with young people through a partnership approach. An example provided included the holiday programmes which involved talking to young people asking what mattered to them and what they would like to see provided;

- (3) the Community Empowerment Fund and how applications were assessed; and the Acting Assistant Director – Communities advised external funds had set criteria to be met and that each fund had a competitive process. It was further advised that individual funds had panels to score applications which consisted of officers from the Council and a third sector member; and
- (4) how it was determined if actions were doing well; and the Acting Assistant Director – Communities advised impacts were measured by progress visits and external audits by Education Scotland.

The Panel,

Decided:

- (a) to approve the contents of the report and note the activity, performance and outcomes achieved; and
- (b) to approve Officers to publish the Mid-Term Programme Report.

9. Thriving Economy Annual Report 2025/26.

There was submitted a report of 29 April 2026 (issued) by the Director of Communities and Transformation providing the Panel with an update of performance and impact of Thriving Economy during 2025/26.

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

- (1) the allocation of funds; and the Acting Assistant Director – Communities advised the previous funding had ended without replacement and the new funding available would go to the region rather than the local authority, where proposals would be decided at the Ayrshire Joint Economic Joint Committee. It was noted there had been around a 30% reduction in the funds since the change and that there had been a change in the revenue capital by the UK Government which had created challenges within services; it would be one regional allocation which would consist of a business offer across the three Ayrshire authorities including allocations for support of a range of interventions around business support, employability, place, people and community; and
- (2) the Ambition Programme; and the Acting Assistant Director – Communities advised that this had been the Council's business support programme for a number of years and that the website had information for those applying where they could request an appointment with a business advisor who would work alongside them to determine the most appropriate funding.

The Panel,

Decided:

- (a) to approve the contents of the report and note the activity, performance and outcomes achieved (Appendix 1); and
- (b) to approve Officers to publish the Annual Report.

The meeting ended at 12:30 p.m.