

LEADERSHIP PANEL

Minutes of meeting being held remotely on 15 February 2022 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Peter Henderson (Chair), Ian Cochrane, Chris Cullen, Julie Dettbarn, William Grant, Brian McGinley and Philip Saxton.

Also

Present: Rev D. Gemmell, E. Terras and T. Robinson (for items 4 and 5 only).

Attending: E. Howat, Chief Executive; D. Gillies, Director – Place; T. Eltringham, Director of Health and Social Care; C. Caves, Head of Legal, HR and Regulatory Services; T. Baulk, Head of Finance and ICT; J. Bradley, Assistant Director – People; L. Reid, Assistant Director – Place; C. Iles, Service Lead – Planning and Building Standards; T. Leijser, Service Lead – Economy and Regeneration; T. Burns, Service Lead – Asset Management and Community Asset Transfer; P. Bradley, Service Lead – Professional Design Service; G. Cockburn, Service Lead – Education Support Services; A. Valenti, Quality Improvement Manager; N. Gemmell, Service Lead – Revenues and Benefits; K. Braidwood, Ayrshire Roads Alliance; B. Macdonnell, Manager, Ayrshire Roads Alliance; J. Tait, Service Lead – CLD and Employability and Skills; S. Mulholland, Quality Improvement Manager; D. Clelland, Maybole Regeneration Lead Officer; R. Kingisepp, Capital Planning Co-ordinator; M. Douglas, Team Leader – Licensing; S. McMillan, Project Implementation Officer; R. Jamieson, Team Leader - Community Asset Transfer; Alison Nelson, Co-ordinator – Democratic Services; F. Maher, Temp Committee Clerk; C. Buchanan, Committee Clerk Co; and E. Moore, Clerical Assistant.

1. Opening Remarks.

The Chair took the sederunt, confirmed to Members the procedures to conduct this meeting and advised that the meeting was being broadcast live.

2. Declarations of Interest.

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.

3. Minutes of previous meetings.

The minutes of 18 January 2022 (issued) were submitted and approved.

4. Decision Log.

Following discussion, the Panel

Decided:

- (1) to approve the overdue action;

- (2) to approve the actions listed with revised due dates; and
- (2) to note the recently completed actions.

Children and Young People

5. **Follow Through Inspection of Braehead Primary School and Early Years Centre (EYC): Education Scotland**

There was submitted a report (issued) of 8 February 2022 by the Quality Improvement Manager informing the Panel of the Education Scotland follow through letter regarding the inspection of Braehead Primary School and EYC.

Having considered the contents of the letter of the follow through inspection by Education Scotland, and commendable work being done by the Head Teacher and Management Team within the school the Panel

Decided: to agree that the Head Teacher would prepare a plan and address the key areas for improvement identified in the letter.

Children and Young People/Resources and Performance/Corporate

6. **2022 Scottish Child Payment – Bridging Payments**

There was submitted a report (issued) of 8 February 2022 by the Assistant Director – People providing the Panel with information relating to the Scottish Government’s Child Payment ‘Bridging Payments’ scheduled for 2022; and requesting approval for the use of additional flexible funding, recently allocated to the Council from the Scottish Government, to offer these payments to a wider group of young people.

Having considered the proposal for use of the Council’s £533,000.00 allocation from the Scottish Government’s recently announced £25 million, flexible funding to tackle financial insecurity, the Panel

Decided: approved the use of this funding to support the payment of four Child Payment ‘Bridging Payments’ to a wider group of young people in 2022.

Economy and Culture

7. **Ayrshire Growth Deal Aerospace and Space Programme**

There was submitted a report (issued) of 8 February 2022 by the Director - Place providing an update on the South Ayrshire Council portfolio of projects (Aerospace and Space) within the Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD).

The Service Lead – Economy and Regeneration provided the Panel with an informed overview of the progress made to date on Ayrshire Growth Deal and associated projects.

The Panel

Decided:

- (1) to note the development of the Aerospace and Space Projects within the Ayrshire Growth Deal and the next steps in the development of the programme;
- (2) to note the financial plan and impact on the Council until full business cases were approved;
- (3) to note the preferred delivery approach for the Prestwick Commercial Build Project; and
- (4) to request that an update be provided to the Leadership Panel in 6 months.

Environment

8. Motorhome Parking Scheme 2022

There was submitted a report (issued) of 8 February 2022 by the Director – Place providing the Panel with the outcome of the trial scheme for motorhome parking undertaken in 2021; and seeking approval for the recommendations in relation to future scheme development.

Having heard further from the Head of Roads on the outcome of the trial schemes and the proposals for further trails one Member asked if the more rural areas of the Council could be considered for a trail, the Head of Roads agreed to consider this. After discussion the Panel

Decided:

- (1) to note the Head of Roads' intention to commence the statutory process for the promotion of a Traffic Regulation Order for permanent motorhome parking facilities at the Esplanade Car Park, Ayr, and the Knockcushan Street Car Park, Girvan;
- (2) to approve the installation of permanent motorhome parking facilities including a barrier control system at the Esplanade Car Park, Ayr pending the successful making of said Order with a request for costs to be met from the Repairs and Renewals Fund;
- (3) to approve the reintroduction of temporary arrangements at the Esplanade Car Park, Ayr and the Knockcushan Street Car Park, Girvan throughout the entire year (including the 2022 summer season) along with proposals to undertake a further trial scheme at North Shore Road, Troon, Links Road Car Park, Prestwick, and Foreland Car Park Ballantrae; and with a request that costs be met from the Repairs and Renewals Fund; and
- (4) to agree to consider the findings and recommendations of this further trial scheme at a future Panel meeting.

Environment/Resource and Performance

9. Seafield Tennis Courts

There was submitted a report (issued) of 8 February 2022 by the Assistant Director – Place presenting the proposed Community Asset Transfer of ownership of the asset known as Seafield Tennis Courts to Ayr Lawn Tennis Club (ALTC).

The Service Lead – Asset Management and Community Asset Transfer provided the Panel with the background to the proposed transfer of ownership. The Panel commended the report particularly in developing the sport via the Active Schools programme and the creation of disability access for wheelchair users, after consideration the Panel

Decided:

- (1) to approve the asset transfer of ownership of Seafield Tennis Courts as shown in Appendix 1 of the report, under Part 5 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 to Ayr Lawn Tennis Club SCIO for the sum of £4,500 (four thousand, five hundred pounds) sterling for the reasons detailed in Appendix 2 and subject to the conditions as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report;
- (2) that, should the asset transfer summarised in 2.1.1 be approved, to approve an award of £60,000 (sixty thousand pounds) of funding from the Advancing Community Assets Fund subject to the conditions detailed in Appendices 4 and 7 of the report;
- (3) to note that, if the applicants wished to proceed with the acquisition, they had a period of 6 months from the date of the decision notice within which to submit to the Council an offer to acquire the property; and
- (4) to request that the Head of Legal, HR and Regulatory Services conclude the sale, in accordance with the recommendations of the report, in the event of an offer being received.

Corporate/Resources and Performance

10. The South Ayrshire Way Strategic Change Programme – Preparing for the Future

There was submitted a report (issued) of 8 February 2022 by the Assistant Director – Place providing the Panel with an update regarding the South Ayrshire Way Strategic Change Programme. The Project Implementation Co-ordinator updated the Panel on the progress made in relation to the recommendations contained within the Best Value Audit.

Members commended the report and after discussion the Panel

Decided:

- (1) to note the progress made by Officers in progressing delivery of the projects within the Change Programme and progress with benefits and planning;
- (2) to note the progress made by Officers in relation to responding to the recommendations in the recent Best Value Audit and supporting the Council's recovery and transformation; and

- (3) to request a further update to Leadership Panel in June 2022 including benefits proposals for all change projects.

11. **Maybole Regeneration Project – Proposed Re-allocation of Council Capital Contribution**

There was submitted a report (issued) of 8 February 2022 by the Assistant Director – People seeking approval to partially re-allocate the £1m of Council capital contribution more evenly across the Maybole Regeneration Project Schemes.

Having noted the request to extend the Regeneration Project to 31 March 2025 due to delays experience by the Covid-19 pandemic a Member asked if the refurbishment of the Town Hall would meet timescales, the Lead Project Officer advised that it was anticipated that the key projects would meet the proposed timescales and work would commence on the Town Hall after the Local Government Elections in May 2022.

The Panel

Decided:

- (1) to agree to redistribute the Council capital contribution of £1m as set out in Appendix 1, Part 1;
- (2) to approve a £50,000 development grant budget as explained in Section 4 of the report; and
- (3) to support the request of an extension of up to twelve months to the Maybole Regeneration Project to 31 March 2025 as a result of delays experienced by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Housing and Community Wellbeing

12. **Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 – Licensing of Sexual Entertainment Venues**

There was submitted a report (issued) of 8 February 2022 by the Head of Legal, HR and Regulatory Services requesting that the Panel consider amending the implementation date for the Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) licensing regime.

The Panel acknowledged that it was important to license sexual entertainment venues to aid in protecting those working in said premises. The Panel

Decided:

- (1) to note the resolution to introduce a licensing regime for Sexual Entertainment Venues (SEVs) agreed by the Leadership Panel on 18 February 2020; and
- (2) to amend the date of implementation of this licensing regime to 1 March 2023.

Resources and Performance

13. Budget Management – Revenue Budgetary Control 2021/22 – Position at 31 December 2021

There was submitted a report (issued) of 8 February 2022 by the Head of Finance and ICT presenting the Panel with a financial overview of the General Services Revenue account, Housing Revenue account and Common Good accounts for 2021/22 as at 31 December 2021.

After discussion the Panel

Decided:

- (1) to note the revised Directorate budgets following the budget movements outlined in 3.3 of the report and to note that the impact of Covid-19 had been included in the projections;
- (2) to approve the return of funding relating to funding previously allocated to Directorates for Covid-19 loss of income/additional expenditure to Covid-19 reserves, as noted in 4.1.7 and 4.1.8 of the report;
- (3) to approve the budget transfers as outlined in the Directorate financial performance reports at Appendix 1 and summarised in 4.1.9 of the report;
- (4) to approve the requested earmarking of resources to be carried forward to 2022/23 as summarised in 4.1.10 of the report; and
- (5) to otherwise note the projected in year under-spend of £4.454m after earmarking and inclusive of the latest Covid-19 cost implications.

14. General Services Capital Programme 2021/22: Monitoring Report as at 31 December 2021

There was submitted a report (issued) of 8 February 2022 by the Assistant Director – Place updating the Panel on the actual capital expenditure and income, together with progress made on the General Services capital programme projects as at 31 December 2021 (period 9); and seeking agreement of the changes to budgets in 2021/22 and future years.

After discussion the Panel

Decided:

- (1) to note the progress made on the delivery of the General Services Capital Programme to 31 December 2021, resulting in spend of £45,490,609 or 61.28% as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (2) to approve the adjustments contained in Appendix 2 of the report, leading to a revised budget of £65,951,864 in 2021/22, £128,119,576 in 2022/23 and £78,070,030 in 2023/24;
- (3) to approve the reclassification of £2.768m of income currently shown as Government Grant in relation to the Ayrshire Growth Deal as borrowing; and

- (4) to note the ongoing disruption to supply chains and labour due to Covid-19 and Brexit and the potential for further changes to forecasted expenditure.

Resource and Performance/Economy and Culture

15. Proposed Management Arrangements for Community and Village Halls

There was submitted a report (issued) of 8 February 2022 by the Assistant Director – People providing an update and seeking approval for officers to continue progressing the recommendations around the management arrangements for community centres and village halls with community associations and community groups.

A Member sought clarify on the Ivy Cottage and The Men’s Cabin, Troon, the Service Lead – CLD and Employability and Skills advised that the Ivy Cottage Committee had taken up the lease and that in relation to The Men’s Cabin Officers had met with representatives in November 2021 and would be meeting with them again in March 2022. The Service Lead – CLD and Employability and Skills agreed to update Members accordingly.

Decided:

- (1) to approve the recommended approaches outlined in Appendix 1 of the report (and specifically those outlined in para 4.1 of the report); and
- (2) to request that a report providing an update on any changes to management arrangements be brought back to Panel in February 2023.

Resource and Performance/Housing and Community Wellbeing

16. Housing Capital Programme 2021/22: Monitoring Report as at 31 December 2021

There was submitted a report (issued) of 8 February 2022 by the Assistant Director – Place updating the Panel on the actual capital expenditure and income, together with progress made on the Housing Capital Programme projects as at 31 December 2021 (period 9) and seeing agreement of the changes to budgets in 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24.

After discussion the Panel

Decided:

- (1) to note the progress made on the delivery of the Housing Capital Programme to 31 December 2021, resulting in spend of £17,576,449 or 53.48% as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (2) to approve the adjustments contained in Appendix 2 of the report, leading to a revised budget of £23,898,653 for 2021/22, £64,208,128 for 2022/23 and £35,387,305 for 2023/24; and
- (3) to note ongoing disruption to supply chains and labour due to Covid-19 and Brexit and the potential for further changes to forecasted expenditure.

Resource and Performance/Environment**17. Proposed Lease for Changing Pavilion at Victory Park, Girvan**

There was submitted a report (issued) of 8 February 2022 by the Assistant Director – Place providing the Panel with an update on the results of the consultation undertaken in relation to the proposed lease; and seeking approval of the next steps.

The Panel commended the work Girvan Youth Football Club were doing to develop the sport in the area and after further discussion the Panel

Decided:

- (1) to the note representations which had been received to the consultation which had been carried out in terms of Section 104 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and Section 27(2A) of the Town and County Planning (Scotland) Act 1959 for the new lease to Girvan Youth Football Club of the changing pavilion and adjacent land being part of the Common Good land at Victory Park, Girvan;
- (2) having considered and agreed the responses to the representations received, to approve publication of the responses on the Council's website and the notification of those who made representation to the consultation;
- (3) having regard to those presentations, and subject to court authority for disposal being obtained under paragraph 2.1.4, to agree to proceed with the proposed new lease to Girvan Youth Football Club for the pavilion and adjacent land shown in Appendix 1 on the basis of the terms and conditions outlined in the report; and
- (4) to authorise the Head of Legal, HR and Regulatory Service to petition the Sheriff Court under Section 75(2) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 for authority to dispose of the changing pavilion and adjacent land by way of a new lease to Girvan Youth Football Club.

18. Exclusion of press and public.

The Panel resolved, in terms of Section 50A (4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, that the press and public be excluded during consideration of the remaining items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information in terms of paragraphs 1, 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

Corporate/Resources and Performance/Environment**19. Station Hotel Update**

There was submitted a report (issued) of 8 February 2022 by the Assistant Director – Place

- (1) updating the Panel on the Council's activities in discharge of its duties under Sections 29 and 30 of Building (Scotland) Act 2003 Dangerous Buildings Scotland Act in relation to the Station Hotel, Ayr;

- (2) seeking approval
 - (a) for the continuation of the arrangement currently in place to make the building safe until a further report was brought back to Leadership Panel with recommendations on permanent safety works; and
 - (b) to implement stakeholder engagement recommendations made within this report including the appointment of an officer to resume the position of Chair of the Strategic Governance Group.

After discussion the Panel

Decided:

- (1) to note the costs incurred by South Ayrshire Council up until 30 April 2022 in making the building safe under its statutory obligations, as outlined in the Addendum;
- (2) to approve an extension of the Council's funding as outlined in the Addendum to the report to meet those statutory obligations in making the building safe (currently in place until 30 April 2022) until 31 December 2022;
- (3) to agree that a further report would be brought forward by 31 August 2022 to outline the cost of implementing permanent safety works and detailing the nature of those works;
- (4) to approve the appointment of a consultant to advise the Council on the required work to make the building permanently safe and approve £25,000 from uncommitted reserves to fund the work;
- (5) to agree that the Council resume the role of Chair of the Station Hotel Strategic Governance Group and approves the Director – Place assume the position of Chair;
- (6) to note that the work on an 'Option Review and Executive Summary' for the Station Hotel by the Strategic Stakeholder Group as referenced in the report to Leadership Panel on 28 April 2021 had not been concluded; and
- (7) to note that clarity and agreement would be sought from stakeholders on the commitment to continue to contribute to the funding of safety works past 30 April 2022 and on their aspirations for the Ayr Rail Hub as outlined in the Addendum to the report.

Resources and Performance

20. Service Review Phase 2 – Benefits Service

There was submitted a report (issued) on 8 February 2022 by the Head of Finance and ICT seeking approval of Phase 2 of the review of the Benefits Service within the Revenues and Benefits Service.

The Service Lead – Revenues and Benefits provided a verbal overview of the report and after discussion the Panel

Decided:

- (1) to approve Phase 2 of the Service Review of Benefit Services (as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report) and associated Addendum to the report; and
- (2) to request that the Service Lead – Revenues and Benefits now completes implementation of the review.

21. Consideration of Disclosure of the above Confidential Reports.

- (1) Station Hotel Update

Decided: that the report should remain exempt by virtue of Paragraph 13 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

- (2) Service Review Phase 2 – Benefits Service

Decided: to authorise under Standing Order 32.4 disclosure of the report once personal information had been redacted in accordance with GDPR requirements.

The meeting ended at 12:05 p.m.