

## **SERVICE AND PARTNERSHIPS PERFORMANCE PANEL**

Minutes of hybrid webcast meeting on  
18 April 2023 at 10.00 a.m.

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

Present  
Remotely: Councillors Kenneth Bell and Ian Cochrane.

Apology: Councillor Mary Kilpatrick.

Attending  
in County  
Buildings: C. Caves, Head of Legal and Regulatory Services; L. Reid, Assistant Director – Strategic Change; G. Hunter, Assistant Director - Communities; K. Dalrymple, Assistant Director – Housing and Operations; K. Anderson, Service Lead – Policy, Performance and Community Planning; T. Burns, Service Lead – Asset Management and Community Asset Transfer; F. Ross, Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services; A. Gibson Committee Services Officer; and E. Moore, Clerical Assistant.

Attending  
Remotely: J. Tait, Service Lead – Thriving Communities; M. Houston, Service Lead – Trading Standards and Environmental Health; M. Alexander, Service Lead – Housing Services; K. Braidwood, Ayrshire Roads Alliance; and S. Tyeson, Senior Manager (Planning Policy and Commissioning) HSCP.

### **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 meeting.**

The Minutes of the former Service and Performance Panel of [10 January](#) and [7 February 2023](#) and the former Partnerships Panel of [8 February 2023](#) (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 – Strategic Change advise

- (1) that in relation to the entry in the Action Log relating to “Elected Members’ Briefings/ Training Update” it had been confirmed by the Head of Legal and Regulatory Services that an email had now been sent to all Members asking them for ideas on suitable training sessions; and
- (2) that in relation to the entry in the Action Log relating to “Local Police Plan 2023/26”, it was noted that she was awaiting a response from Superintendent Frew, Police Scotland and once received an email would be sent to the Members,

the Panel

#### **Decided:**

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

### 4. **Council Plan 2018-22 (2020 Mid-Term Refresh/ Extended) – October to March 2023.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 3 April 2023 by the Director of Strategic Change and Communities to allow the Panel the opportunity to review progress made towards achieving the strategic objectives contained within the Council Plan 2018-22 (2020 Mid-Term Refresh).

The Service Lead – Policy, Performance and Community Planning gave an introduction to the report and advised that a number of officers were present to help respond to Members questions.

In relation to the action “COPL 01.4a Develop an integrated approach to Trauma-Informed Practice in partnership with Community Planning Partners.” where it was noted that this action was only 30% complete, a Member of the Panel asked for an update. The Service Lead – Policy, Performance and Community Planning advised that this was an ongoing matter and by its nature, would never be completed; that it was more than 30% complete now; that this Council was further ahead than most Councils in this area; and that in future, more specific actions would be looked at, rather than the wider agenda.

In relation to the action “COPL 04.2a Create a Heritage Hub on Ayr High Street and deliver a programme of exhibitions, events and tours incorporating local heritage assets” a Member of the Panel enquired that with the recent appointment of a Heritage and Engagement officer in this area, would the opening hours of the Heritage Hub be affected. The Assistant Director – Communities advised he would investigate this matter and respond in writing to the Members of Panel.

A Member of the Panel enquired if financial cuts would impact on Services relating to the Thriving Communities Programme. Having heard various officers, it was noted that they were confident that all aspects of the programme could continue to be delivered and that significant external funding was made towards this Programme; and that there would be a report presented to Cabinet in the near future with a service update detailing any proposed savings.

Having heard a Member of the Panel enquire about the number of modern apprentices being taken on, the Service Lead – Thriving Communities advised that officers were currently planning and forecasting the number of starts for 23/24, however there was a number of factors that would impact the number of starts and that this included, funding, contract, savings and workforce planning. The most important thing was ensuring modern apprentices were embedded in to workforce planning and that they were working with services to plan for 2023/24.

In relation to the action “COPL 01.4b Review the Council's House Allocations Policy to make best use of available housing stock” and having heard a Member of the Panel ask that Members continue to be briefed in this area, the Service Lead – Housing Services advised that this was a complex area of work and that Members would be consulted on any proposals before wider consultation was sought.

Following a question from a Member of the Panel for an update in relation to the action “COPL 02.2a Ensure young people leaving care do not have to access housing through the homeless system” the Assistant Director – Housing and Operations provided an update on this matter. The Service Lead - Policy, Performance and Community Planning gave a further update in relation to the partners involved.

Having heard a Member of the Panel in relation to the action “COPL 05.4c Develop and promote our Parks and Open Spaces as a destination venue for visitors and residents” in relation to what sites were being considered the Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services advised that a number of sites across the Council were being looked at including Glencairn Park, Ayr and the Girvan Community Garden with a view to linking this to the Knockcushan Garden in Girvan. It was further noted the establishment of a website in this respect was close to completion.

A Member of the Panel asked a question in relation to the action “CPL 6.06 Number of visits to schools for car idling enforcement.” As the Service Lead – Trading Standards and Environmental Health had joined the meeting remotely and as a result of technical difficulties where he could not be heard at the meeting, it was agreed that he provide a written response on the matter.

*Response received immediately after the meeting from the Service Lead – Trading Standards and Environmental Health and passed to Members of the Panel:-*

“Car idling has been targeted at the colder months as members of the public tend not to idle their cars when the weather is warmer.

We are planning a further program of this over the next year but the resource available to target this work is very limited.

Officers on patrol engage with drivers to advise on the legal requirements and the damage to the environment. The Scottish guidance says that anyone found with their engine idling should be advised that it is an offence. A fixed penalty notice can only be issued after a period of 10 minutes has expired following this advice. For this reason very few FPNs have been issued in Scotland.

TSEH will undertake patrols once more this year, we plan to carry these out in late autumn and winter however if Councillors have information that would indicate that this should take place at other times of the year we are happy to consider this in our planning.”

A Member of the Panel made an enquiry regarding the action “CPL 6.11 Number of Allotment plots available.” The Service Lead - Neighbourhood Services advised that they were allocated mostly on supply and demand but once a point was reached, the Council would be required to look at additional sites.

A Member of the Panel requested an update in relation to the action “COPL 05.2a Support local community-controlled organisations to develop thriving places by empowering them to make better use of local community assets”. The Service Lead – Asset Management and Community Asset Transfer provided an update and advised that good progress was being made.

Having considered the progress through the narrative, as set out within Appendix 1 of the report, the Panel

**Decided:** to note

- (1) that the new Council Plan was agreed by Council on 1 March 2023, becoming live on 1 April 2023; and
- (2) that this was the final performance update from the Council Plan 2018-23.

**5. South Ayrshire Council Gaelic Language Plan (GLP) Annual Monitoring Report to Bòrd na Gàidhlig 2021- 2022.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 3 April 2023 by the Director of Strategic Change and Communities providing an update on the South Ayrshire Gaelic Language Plan – Annual Monitoring Report 2022.

A Member of the Panel enquired if libraries would be used to disseminate information and provide training facilities for the public in this respect and the Service Lead – Policy, Performance and Community Planning advised that he would look into this suggestion and respond to the relevant Panel Member.

Following a question from a Member of the Panel, the Service Lead – Policy, Performance and Community Planning advised that there would have been a cost to have had the report being presented to this Panel translated to Gaelic.

A Member of the Panel enquired if the new Council fleet that was being acquired would be branded with dual language signage and the Assistant Director - Housing and Operations advised that he could not confirm this but would respond in writing to the Panel Members.

The Panel

**Decided:** to note the South Ayrshire Gaelic Language Plan 2020-2025 Annual Monitoring Report, submitted to Bòrd na Gàidhlig in February 2023 for the reporting period 2021 – 2022.

**6. Integration Joint Board (IJB) Annual Performance Report 2021-2022.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 31 March 2023 by the Director of Health and Social Care regarding the Integration Joint Board (IJB) Annual Performance Report 2021-22.

A Member of the Panel enquired about a number of including hospital discharges, care at home packages and aids and adaptations. The Senior Manager (Planning Policy and Commissioning) HSCP advised that this report covered matters up to March 2022; that recruitment remained challenging; that the care at home service was working hard to address challenges; that hospital discharges continued to fluctuate on a regular basis; that a detailed update on this issue would be provided in the next report to this Panel; and that recruitment and retention of staff was a national challenge.

The Panel

**Decided:** to note the contents of the IJB Annual Performance Report 2021-22.

**7. Fleet Strategy 2021-2026 Progress Report.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 31 March 2023 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development providing the annual review of progress in delivering the South Ayrshire Council Fleet Strategy 2021 - 2026.

The Assistant Director – Housing and Operations gave a background to the report.

Having heard a Member of the Panel, it was noted that there would be no penalties for this Council should the timescales set out in the National Transport Strategy (NTS2) not be met, but that this was aspiration that had been signed up to.

A Member of the Panel was asked if there was just a requirement to move to just electric vehicles and the Assistant Director – Housing and Operations advised that there a requirement to move away from the use of fossil fuels.

A Member of the Panel enquired about the need for reduction of Co2 emissions in the grounds maintenance fleet and the Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services advised that the Council had taken this on board and were, amongst other things, looking at the use of electric trimmers and cutters.

Having considered the annual review of the South Ayrshire Council Fleet Strategy 2021-2026, the Panel

**Decided:** to agree that an annual review of the strategy be submitted to this Panel.

## 8. **Waste Strategy 2021-2031 Progress Report.**

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 31 March 2023 by the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development providing the annual progress report of the Council's Waste Strategy from 2021 to 2031, as per the action plan.

The Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services gave a background to the report.

After a Member of the Panel enquired if there were any plans to have a street cleaning serviced used beyond Ayr town centre and was there a way of measuring the effectiveness of motorised street sweepers, the Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services advised that street sweeping was conducted in residential areas and the effectiveness of motorised street sweepers could be hampered with parked cars and other obstacles.

A Member of the Panel spoke in relation to the second action listed in Appendix 1 "Develop a reuse plan to identify and co- ordinate reuse activities including supporting the development of partnerships with third sector organisations" and advised that there were community led organisations who would be willing to work with the Council on this. The Service Lead – Neighbourhood Services intimated that the Council were always willing to work with the community in this regard.

Having heard a Member of the Panel enquire if there were any plans to incorporate changes to the bins layout at the Heathfield site in relation to plastic waste, the Assistant Director – Housing and Operations advised of the position.

There was discussion on the fly tipping and dog waste bins and it was noted that bins were being installed to take both general litter and dog waste.

A Member of the Panel enquired if there were any plans for the Council to collect and dispose of paint and the Assistant Director – Housing and Operations advised that he would respond to Members of the Panel on this matter after the meeting.

The Panel

**Decided:** to note the contents of the report.

The meeting ended at 11.15 a.m.