

SERVICE AND PARTNERSHIPS PERFORMANCE PANEL

Minutes of hybrid webcast meeting on
16 May 2023 at 10.00 a.m.

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

Present
Remotely: Councillors Ian Cochrane and Chris Cullen.

Apologies: Councillors Kenneth Bell, Mark Dixon and Mary Kilpatrick.

Attending
in County
Buildings: G. Hunter, Assistant Director - Communities; W. Carlaw, Service Lead – Democratic Governance; K. Anderson, Service Lead – Policy, Performance and Community Planning; L. Kerr, Service Lead – Destination South Ayrshire; M. Greaves, Co-ordinator (Economy and Regeneration – Local Places); J. Wyatt, Chief Executive, Ayr Gaiety Partnership; A. Gibson 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 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 18 April 2023 (issued) were submitted and approved, subject to an amendment to indicate that Councillor Dixon was present online and not in the County Hall.

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 – Communities, 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. **Ayr Gaiety Partnership.**

There was submitted a report (issued) of 3 May 2023 by the Director of Strategic Change and Communities

- (1) outlining the work of the Ayr Gaiety Partnership and its impact within South Ayrshire; and
- (2) providing the opportunity to identify any areas for further discussion or development of partnership activity.

The Service Lead – Destination South Ayrshire introduced the report and the Chief Executive, Ayr Gaiety Partnership advised that the theatre had emerged from the recent pandemic stronger than it had been previously; that there had been an increase in the number of sold out shows; that the Gaiety supported fourteen jobs at present and that would be likely to increase; the positive effect the Gaiety had on the local economy; and the partnership work that had been being undertaken, such as Tamfest.

Following questions from a Member, it was noted

- (a) that, for future reports relating to this subject matter, the “Proposals” paragraph in the report would be made clearer; and
- (b) that in relation to the cost of providing rehearsal space for amateur dramatic groups, there had been an anonymous donation which could assist with this and that other accommodation in Ayr was being looked at to provide rehearsal space.

Having heard a Member of the Panel,

- (i) the Service Lead – Destination South Ayrshire confirmed that the loan debt had been assessed as part of this year’s budget setting process and that Members would be provided with additional information on this matter; and
- (ii) it was noted that it was not envisaged that the Ayr Gaiety would be financially self-sufficient and that Council support was critical in securing funding from Creative Scotland.

The Panel

Decided: to note the work of the Ayr Gaiety Partnership (AGP) in delivering activities within South Ayrshire.

5. Community Wealth Building Programme.

There was submitted a report (issued) of 3 May 2023 by the Director of Strategic Change and Communities providing an update on the Community Wealth Building (CWB) programme workplan and a summary of progress to date, which included a review of the current work plan.

A Member of the Panel sought clarification as to how socialisation mapped on to the five key areas focussed on under Community Wealth Building (CWB). The Co-ordinator (Economy and Regeneration – Local Places) responded and advised that socialisation was a continuing practice and would never be complete. The Member advised that it would be helpful if this matter was made clearer in future reports.

Having heard a Member of the Panel enquire if there was any progress in relation to the Council sourcing food from local suppliers for school meals, the Service Lead – Policy, Performance and Community Planning advised that he would investigate this matter with Procurement and Facilities Management and respond to the Members of the Panel accordingly.

A Member of the Panel raised a query as to the assistance provided to small businesses involved in the Council's tendering process and the Assistant Director – Communities advised that he would look into this matter in moving forward.

Having reviewed progress in relation to CWB, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, the Panel

Decided:

- (1) to endorse the approaches and achievements set out within the revised work plan;
- (2) to note that the CWB team would provide six-monthly updates to Service Leads and Members on progress made against planned activity; and
- (3) to note that the Council worked towards CWB principles being fully embedded into SAC service plans moving forward and linked to Key Performance Indicators and Action Plan which would allow services the opportunity to report progress of CWB within their own service area.

6. Participatory Budgeting Activity in 2022/23 (Quarters 1 and 2).

There was submitted a report (issued) of 3 May 2023 by the Director of Strategic Change and Communities advising of the Participatory Budgeting (PB) Activity undertaken by Council Services in the first half of financial year 2022/23.

A Member of the Panel enquired how engagement was achieved and the Service Lead – Policy, Performance and Community Planning advised that it varied and that it was important to build on a strategic approach.

Following a question from a Member of the Panel relating to budget allocations to the various Wards over the next four years and whether this would be under Participatory Budgeting and the consultation process that would be involved, the Service Lead - Policy, Performance and Community Planning advised that he would investigate this matter and advise the Panel Members of the position accordingly.

Having considered the content of the PB Activity Report, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, the Panel

- (1) noted the value of budgetary spend influenced through the PB processes; and
- (2) requested that data for October 2022 to March 2023 be submitted to Panel in August 2023.

The meeting ended at 10.45 a.m.