

EAST AYRSHIRE LEISURE TRUST

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 5 JUNE 2018 AT 1800 HOURS IN THE VISITOR CENTRE, DEAN CASTLE COUNTRY PARK, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillor Trustees Iain Linton, Ian Grant, Clare Maitland and Neil McGhee; Independent Trustees Jean Brown, Jackie Livingston, and Robert Mann; and Bob McCulloch, Acting Head of Housing and Communities, East Ayrshire Council, ex officio Trustee.

ATTENDING: John Griffiths, Chief Executive; Adam Geary, Cultural Services Manager; Dianne McGregor, Marketing and Development Manager; Chris Murphy, Sports and Community Venues Manager; Jackie Biggart, People and Finance Manager; and Lorraine Russell, Senior Accountant, all East Ayrshire Leisure Trust; and Gillian Hamilton, Democratic Services Officer, East Ayrshire Council.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Trustee Elena Whitham; and Independent Trustees Robin Hume and June Minnery.

CHAIR: Councillor Iain Linton, Trustee.

WELCOME AND APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

1. The Chief Executive welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular Bob McCulloch who had replaced Chris McAleavey, on his retirement from East Ayrshire Council, as ex officio Trustee.
2. The Chief Executive, in the absence of both Chair and Vice Chair, invited nominations for Chair and it was agreed unanimously to appoint Councillor Trustee Iain Linton, who then took the Chair.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3. No declarations of interest were intimated.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minute of Board Meeting held on 24 April 2018

4. There were submitted and approved as a correct record the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 24 April 2018 (circulated).

Matters Arising

5. It was noted:-
 - (i) that the work of the Member/Officer Working Group on options for the Kilmarnock Leisure Trust was progressing, but remained confidential. When proposals came forward from the Group, Trustees would have the opportunity to comment;
 - (ii) work had begun on the development of a single pricing strategy for EALT and KLCT. East Ayrshire Council has confirmed that:-
 - it was not intended to immediately harmonise charges at levels equivalent to the Galleon Centre's current charges, but rather, to implement a consistent set of charges that would maximise income across both organisations.
 - (iii) further to the new charges set for 2018/19 for fitness and sport memberships, in response to new competition in the area and having taken external advice on the matter, the charges had been adjusted to be more competitive, recognising the need

to adapt to changing circumstances. It was confirmed that the new charges would apply to the new William McIvanney Campus when it opened;

- (iv) key elements of the Dean Castle collection would be on display at the Dick Institute during the Dean Castle closure period;
- (v) the Bricktropolis event at the Dick Institute was scheduled to open on 6 June 2018; and
- (vi) the playpark at Dean Castle Country Park was work in progress, with new equipment due to be installed later in the week. This should alleviate concerns about lack of provision for younger children. The Council's PR Team would be consulted about suitable promotion. In addition, the contractor is now back on site completing works on landscaping, planting etc.

3.2 Minute of Performance and Audit Sub-Committee held on 21 May 2018

There were submitted and noted the Minutes of the Performance and Audit Sub-Committee Meeting held on 21 May 2018 (circulated).

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT APRIL 2017 TO MARCH 2018

3. There was submitted a report dated 22 May 2018 (circulated) by the Chief Executive which provided details of the Trust's performance for financial year 2017/18. The results showed sound financial performance, however, overall attendances showed a reduction for reasons explained in the report. The introduction of the Illuminight event to the programme and a range of other new programme initiatives had helped to offset the effects of challenging market conditions.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the Annual Performance Report for 2017/18;
- (ii) to approve the designation of funds proposed in the report;
- (iii) to note the Board's appreciation of the educational work recorded in the Progress Against Action Plan 2016/19 table under "maintain and sustain high level partnerships that support service delivery and improvements;
- (iv) to consider, going forward, how to capture information on attendances by people with disabilities; adults or children and how many are accompanied by carers;
- (v) that the Chief Executive explore with the Chief Social Work Officer any opportunities within East Ayrshire Leisure to help support young people with care experience into employment;
- (vi) to note the reasons, reported at the meeting, behind the favourable variance for 2017/18 in the Financial Performance table, given the previous break-even projection;
- (vii) to note the explanation given at the meeting of how the Galleon Centre would sit within the East Ayrshire Leisure website, with a link to the booking system;
- (viii) to note the explanation given at the meeting in relation to "irrecoverable VAT"; and
- (ix) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

BEST VALUE REVIEW ACTION PLAN

4. There was submitted a report dated 16 May 2018 (circulated) by the Chief Executive which put forward a progress report and action plan in relation to the implementation of the Best Value Review of Leisure Services approved by East Ayrshire Council in March 2017.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the Action Plan contained in this report;
- (ii) to note the progress achieved in the implementation of the individual recommendations of the Best Value Review; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

ILLUMINIGHT 2018 UPDATE

5. There was submitted a report dated 21 May 2018 (circulated) by the Countryside and Outdoor Activity Manager which provided Trustees with an update on the work that has been carried out so far for the development of Illuminight 2018 and which presented for information and discussion an outline design concept that has been developed by Blacklight, the creative consultants working on the event.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress achieved so far for the development of Illuminight 2018;
- (ii) to note that more modest sponsorship packages were being looked at for local businesses;
- (iii) to consider the ticketing issues raised at the meeting, in particular around family tickets, carers of visitors with specific access requirements; and offering more ticket options for larger families during quieter times in the programme; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT PRESENTATION

6. The Board heard from the Marketing and Development Manager on marketing and development activity within East Ayrshire Leisure and, at the conclusion of the presentation, discussion took place around:-

- (i) responsibility for updating notice boards in facilities;
- (ii) potential for making marketing links with Dumfries House, Park Hotel and football networks; and
- (iii) other opportunities for promoting East Ayrshire including whisky, Burns and Ballochmyle Viaduct heritage.

The Board thanked the Marketing and Development Manager for the full and detailed presentation.

AOCB

7. Trustees raised issues around hospitality in facilities, in particular the Grange and AAA. It was noted that any hospitality option for the Grange would need to be run by Onsite Services. The Council's Corporate Catering Manager was looking at costs. Vending machines were in situ at AAA.

The Chief Executive would look into making representation for the AAA to host the Ayrshire Schools Athletics Championship.

The annual report for 2017/18 would be presented to East Ayrshire Council and to the Board's AGM in September, together with the annual accounts.

The meeting terminated at 2000 hours.