

EAST AYRSHIRE LEISURE TRUST - BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 6.05PM HOURS AT DARVEL TOWN HALL

PRESENT: Councillors Clare Maitland; Graham Boyd; Iain Linton; Linda Holland; and James Adams, Trustees; David Ross; Melanie Swan; Barbara McIntyre; Rob Hannah; and Andy Wilson, Jim Roberts Independent Trustees

ATTENDING: Anneke Freal, Chief Officer; Paul Mathieson, Executive Lead: Places, Projects & Programmes; Lorraine Russell, Strategic Lead: Creating a Solid Foundation for Growth; Carleen Fitzgerald, Development Officer: Organisational Administration; Greig Russell, Strategic Lead: Leisure at the Heart of Every Community; Christine Keenan, Strategic Lead: Protecting Our Environment; and Hugh Collins, Development Officer: Sustainability, all East Ayrshire Leisure Trust

CHAIR: Councillor Clare Maitland, Trustee

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICE BEARERS AND TRUSTEES

1. There was submitted a report dated 14 September 2023 (circulated) by the Chief Officer to seek confirmation of reappointment of existing Trustees to the Board and appointment of new independent Trustees.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to confirm B McIntyre, R Hannah and J Roberts as an Independent Trustee;
- (ii) Elect Councillor Maitland and J Roberts to Chair and Vice Chair of East Ayrshire Leisure respectively; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Clare Maitland, Trustee, then took the Chair.

The Chair thanked Robin Hume and Jackie Livingston for their contribution and support throughout her time as a Trustee.

LEISURE AT THE HEART OF EVERY COMMUNITY CORPORATE DELIVERY PLAN OUTPUT - DEVELOP BUSINESS AND REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR DARVEL TOWN HALL

2. G Russell took the meeting around the Town Hall advising them of proposed refurbishment works that will take place in 2024-26.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. Joe McLachlan, Chief Financial Officer and Head of Finance and ICT; and Blair Millar, Head of Housing and Communities, East Ayrshire Council, ex officio Trustees and Jackie Biggart, Executive Lead: People, Policy & Performance

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4. No declarations of interest were intimated.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 5.1 There were submitted and approved the minutes of the previous Board meeting held on 30 May 2023 (circulated).

MINUTES OF PERFORMANCE AND AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE OF 15 AUGUST 2023

- 5.2 There were submitted and noted the minutes of the Performance and Audit Sub-Committee meeting held on 15 August 2023 (circulated).

PERFORMANCE REPORT APRIL - JUNE 2023 (Q1)

6. There was submitted a report dated 14 September 2023 (circulated) by the Chief Officer which provided details of the Trust's performance for the period April - June 2023, the first quarter of the 2023/24 financial year. In line with the organisational review, Strategic Vision and Corporate Delivery Plan, the performance report has been split into 3 documents: East Ayrshire Leisure Performs; Corporate Delivery Plan Record of Progress; and Financial Performance.

During discussion on the report, the following was noted:

- The report was approved by the Performance and Audit Sub-Committee on 15 August 2023.
- Attendance for the period was 560,022 which is an increase by 25% compared to the same period in 2022/23.
- Hunter Fitness Centre, Barony Sports Village and Doon Valley Leisure have done particularly well, with increases of 26%, 39.5% and 27.8% retrospectively.
- With a focus on programming and engagement, libraries have shown an average increase of 26.8% in attendance.
- Dean Castle has attracted over 35,000 visitors within the first 3 months of opening.
- Halloween/Fireworks event, Fawkes Fest, will take place on 29 November, tickets have been selling well.
- Christmas event, Starry nights at Dean Castle, launched this week which will run from 8 Dec to 23 Dec. It was reported that 90 Santa Grotto tickets were sold within the first 3 hrs.
- To celebrate the 65th Anniversary of Annanhill Golf Course, the first East Ayrshire Golf Open was held. Due to its success, this will become an annual event. £500 profit was raised which will be used to help develop our junior section.
- Lifestyle teams have invested in Bodytrax machines to support health checks throughout our venues, currently being piloted in Doon Valley Leisure Centre.
- The projected outturn for East Ayrshire Leisure at 30 June 2023 is a breakeven position.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the East Ayrshire Leisure Performs report for the period April - June 2023;
- (ii) to approve the changes to the Investing in Our people and Embracing Our Values team, and the temporary secondment and recruitment of the Development Co-ordinator (Museums); and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Greig, Christine and Hugh left the meeting.

ALTERNATIVE PERFORMING ART PROPOSALS

7. There was submitted a report dated 14 September 2023 (circulated) by the Chief Officer, to update Trustees on the plans for performing arts provision during the period of closure of the Palace Theatre and Grand Hall.

During discussion on the report, the following was noted:

- The Palace and Grand Hall will close on 31 Dec for refurbishment works. Alternative venues for regular community bookings have been found.
- The Performing Arts team will create and implement a programme to be delivered from April 2024 across our other venues of live performances, festivals and community cinema, this service will continue after Palace & Grand Hall reopening.
- Pop up structure to be put in place for 14 week duration for Pantomime. Security and health & safety issues were raised, particularly around flooding of the Scott Ellis. Paul advised that the Trust continues to liaise with EAC Officers and Ayrshire Roads Alliance and will discuss the risk of flooding and any potential mitigation.
- There will be the potential for sponsorship opportunities.
- It was agreed that an alternative site will be looked at and costs to be sought and reported back to Board.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the development and delivery of the temporary pop up structure and remit the Chief Officer to ensure a suitable funding package is secured before proceeding;
- (ii) to note the delivery of an alternative programme within our community venues;
- (iii) to approve the temporary changes to the performing arts team structures; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

CORPORATE IDENTITY & REBRANDING

8. There was submitted a report dated 14 September 2023 (circulated) by the Chief Officer that seeks approval to investigate rebranding options for East Ayrshire Leisure Trust in line with our repositioning and further development of the organisation.

It was agreed:

- (i) to remit the Strategic Lead: Sharing Our Vision to investigate rebranding options for East Ayrshire Leisure; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

VOLUNTARY SEVERANCE

9. There was submitted a report dated 3 August 2023 (circulated) by the Chief Officer to seek the Board's approval of a severance application which has been approved by the Chief Officer of East Ayrshire Leisure under delegated authority.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the voluntary severance arrangements as detailed in Appendix A to this report.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

- 10.** Councillor Graham Boyd asked what involvement the Trust Board would have in the Cultural Kilmarnock Project. It was agreed that there will be Trustee representation on the Stakeholder Group which will then report back to the Board.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 11.** Performance & Audit Sub-Committee – 14 November 2023
East Ayrshire Leisure Board of Trustees – 28 November 2023

The meeting terminated at 19.40 hours.