

PERFORMANCE AND AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2025 AT 1600 HOURS IN THE DOWER HOUSE, DEAN CASTLE COUNTRY PARK, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Independent Trustees Jim Roberts; and Councillors Linda Mabon and Graham Boyd, Trustees

ATTENDING: Anneke Freel, Chief Officer; Jackie Biggart, Executive Lead: People, Policy and Performance; Paul Mathieson, Executive Lead: Places, Projects and Programmes; Lorraine Russell, Strategic Lead: Creating a Solid Foundation for Growth; and Carleen Fitzgerald, Development Officer: Organisational Administration; all East Ayrshire Leisure Trust

CHAIR: Independent Trustee, Jim Roberts.

APOLOGIES

1. Andy Wilson; Trustee

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2. N/A

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

3. Were submitted and approved as a correct record of the Minutes from the meeting of the Performance and Audit Sub-Committee held on 20 August 2024 (circulated).

PERFORMANCE REPORT OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2024 (Q3)

4. There was submitted a report dated 19 February 2025 (circulated) by the Chief Officer, which provided details of the Trust's performance for the period October - December 2024, the third quarter of the 2024/25 financial year. In line with the organisational review, Strategic Vision and Corporate Delivery Plan, the performance report has been separated 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:

- Attendance figures across Trust venues was 488,348 which is an increase of 4.8% compared to the same period in 2023/24.
- A number of venues have been performing really well since introducing the community performing arts programme: Stewarton Area Centre, Darvel Town Hall and Cumnock Town Hall. Community bookings also being increased due to change in opening hours.
- Leisure Centres doing well, Barony Sports Village in particular has an increase in indoor and outdoor bookings resulting in overall attendance increase of 76%.
- Synthetic Grass Pitches bookings at 96% capacity, this is great but will keep an eye on going forward. This may be a result of youth teams finding alternative provision to Rugby Park. SFA carrying out an audit of Kilmarnock pitches to see impact.
- Decrease in attendance at the Hunter Fitness Suite and Doon Valley Leisure Centre, these facilities usually perform well so there may be an issue with the new reporting system.

- Museum attendances have increased. The Baird Institute showing an increase of 27%, predominantly due to the engagement programme introduced and the Cumnock Tryst Anniversary Exhibition.
- This report covers the third quarter of the Corporate Delivery Plan 2024-26 which included 46 strategic outputs. Work is underway on 39 (85%) of the outputs, with 2 now complete.
- Projected outturn at 31 December 2024 is a breakeven position.
- Trustees approved the allocation of £38k from the Museum Galleries Tax fund for major exhibitions including the up and coming 'Before and After Coal' exhibition at the Baird Institute in commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of Miners' Strike.
- It was agreed that the Trust's chosen charity will now be in place for a 2 year period, therefore SAMH partnership will be extended into 2025/26.
- Impact of Storm Eowyn – Amber warning turned to Red on Thursday. Annanhill Golf Course and Dean Castle Country Park were closed off.
- Discussions took place with specialist contractors in relation to the Big Top at Ayrshire Athletics Arena, structure takes 4 days to take down, therefore decided it should remain in place. As soon as the red warning was received, the team put measures in place to dismantle the highest risk equipment.
- Bar stock minimal loss of approx. £200. Damage to ground approx. £600. Working with Insurance company in relation to equipment. After Pat testing, majority of the equipment has been deemed as safe, specialist company also coming in to check equipment safety.
- Customers were advised that the 2 shows due to take place were postponed. These have now been rescheduled: Story of Swing – 20 June. UK Pink Floyd 21/22 June.
- Options appraisal being carried out for a venue for panto for the next 2 years.
- Significant loss of trees, plan to replace these in the future. Staff did an amazing job clearing up. Trustees would like to express their thanks to all staff involved.
- Dick Institute roof was damaged, plans to remove roof lights and tile over.
- Doon Valley Leisure Centre wall at games hall side partially collapsed, bookings were moved to over areas in the centre.
- The Trust supported the Council to open up a warm space in Darvel as the community went without power and water for 4 days.
- Risk Register – the Chair suggested that Risk No 9 should be increased? A copy of the Risk Register Matrix will be included in the Board paper.
- PAT testing – easier to be done external, quick seamless turnaround.
- VisitScotland announced that they are withdrawing their accreditation scheme from March 2025, quality assurance ratings will no longer be awarded. Trust is looking to become a member of Association of Scottish Visitor Attractions (ASVA). Internal Audit also looking into alternative options.

It was agreed:

- (i) to approve the East Ayrshire Leisure Performs Report for the period October - December 2024;
- (ii) to otherwise note the content of this report.

CHARGES FOR SERVICES 2025/26

5. There was submitted a report dated 30 January 2025 (circulated) by the Chief Officer, which puts forward proposals for the 2025/26 schedule of charges for Trustee consideration and approval.

The following was noted:

- Memberships will be looked at for next year (2026/27).
- Flexible Space – standard hall and large hall hire rates will be retained, there will be an increase on charges for out with normal hours. This will increase from £20p/h to £25p/h before midnight (min 3hr booking) and increase from £30p/h to £35p/h after midnight.
- Trust staff are moving to Civic Centre South, which will be known as Wallace Chambers. Offices will be on the first and second floor. Ground and basement proposals to move Library from Dick Institute. With Artefacts and paintings etc. to be on view at the Dick Institute. Funding for investment in the Dick Institute and Wallace Chambers to be looked at. Conversations have started with the National Lottery Heritage Fund (HLF), formal note of interest will be submitted in May. If pass funding stages, changes would be made in 2028.
- Dower House will be available for corporate events hiring. Will build into discussions with HLF in the future, and external funding also required. Look into converting to a Boutique hotel for weddings etc.
- Access road and lighting scheduled to be done as part of infinity loop. Parking also available at back of Castle.
- Annanhill Golf Course season ticket will increase from £250 to £275, various concessionary prices still available. Staff ticket will increase from £50-£75.
- Active Wellbeing Suite opening next week at Rose Reilly Leisure Centre, introducing Active Wellbeing Membership, free first month then £10 per month.
- Minor increase in bar and catering provision due to increases in hospitality prices.
- Loyalty Discounts for regular bookings and clubs affiliated to East Ayrshire Sports Council will continue.

It was agreed:

- (i) to approve the proposed charges; and
- (ii) to otherwise note the content of this report.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

6. N/A

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7. East Ayrshire Leisure Board of Trustees – 4 March 2025
Performance & Audit Sub-Committee – 13 May 2025
Trading Subsidiary – 13 May 2025

The meeting terminated at 17.05 hours.