

PERFORMANCE AND AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER AT 1600 HOURS IN THE DE WALDEN SUITE, DEAN CASTLE COUNTRY PARK, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Independent Trustees Jim Roberts; Barbara McIntyre; Andy Wilson; and Councillors Linda Holland; 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. N/A

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2. Jim Roberts advised he is the Chairperson on the Kilmarnock Sub Aqua Club, this has been noted in his Register of Trustees' Interest return.

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 15 August 2023 (circulated).

PERFORMANCE REPORT JULY – SEPTEMBER 2023 (Q2)

4. There was submitted a report dated 24 October 2023 (circulated) by the Chief Officer, which provided details of the Trust's performance for the period July - September 2023, the second quarter of the 2023/24 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 were 548,704, which is a 38% increase on same period in 2022/23.
- There has been 40,000 more visits to the Trust's website from Qtr 1 to Qtr 2 due to advertising of Summer programmes.
- Corporate Delivery Plan - a further 7 outputs were completed this quarter. 1 output, Hospitality Deposit Return Scheme, not started due to the national initiative being postponed. The remaining outputs are progressing and well on target for completion by March 2024.
- The Chair asked if there were any projected areas of concern within the Financial Performance report? Lorraine advised that income and staff absence will be closely monitored.

- Within Leisure at the Heart of Every Community financial analysis, Sports Hubs shows a considerable adverse figure; this is in relation to the Trust's indoor sports halls available for hire which has been slow to recover since covid. Income target to be reviewed for sports hall hire, along with parties which we are continuing to push sales through our marketing campaigns.
- The Chief Officer confirmed that Trust staff will receive the wage increase and backdated pay as we follow the same terms and conditions as the Council.
- Within Protecting Our Environment, the adverse variance in Countryside of £12.8k predominantly relates to bat surveys which we no longer have the skill set to carry out, consideration is being given to finding alternative income sources.
- Under General Projects, where a balance remains at the end of a project, the Trust advises the funder of the amount remaining and what we would like to use it on. With approval from the funder, these funds are then ring fenced. Lorraine advised that for future reports, a separate table will be produced detailing where these funds will be used.
- Wi-fi Project – the Chair stated that it is important that wi-fi is available within all Trust facilities. Lorraine informed that the £20k shown has been committed to specific facilities, and that this forms part of a project where all facilities will be supplied with wi-fi. The Chief Officer advised that the Trust has looked into R100 and will look into submitting an application for funding.
- As part of our 10th Anniversary celebrations, we implemented Long Service Awards in relation to 10, 20, 30 and 40 years of service. These have been very well received and we will continue to award to staff every 1st July.

It was agreed:

- (i) to approve the East Ayrshire Leisure Performs Report for the period July – September 2023;
- (ii) to otherwise note the content of this report.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

5. Auchinleck Leisure Centre has been managed by East Ayrshire Leisure for some time, the facility now requires increased investment to operate it. East Ayrshire Council took the decision at its Cabinet meeting on Wednesday 25 October to close the facility. East Ayrshire Leisure Trust have been working with clubs to find alternative venues, and will focus our provision from Barony Sports Village.

Councillor Holland advised that Ayrshire Badminton Club has newly formed with 16 fully qualified coaches. The club will be holding sessions within Barony Sports Village and Grange Leisure Centre, with the potential to use more Trust venues in the coming future.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

6. East Ayrshire Leisure Board of Trustees – 28 November 2023
Performance & Audit Sub-Committee – 6 February 2024

The meeting terminated at 16.30 hours.