

EAST AYRSHIRE LEISURE TRUST - BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2020 AT 6PM BY VIDEO CONFERENCE

PRESENT: Councillors Elena Whitham, Clare Maitland; Ian Grant; Neil McGhee; Iain Linton, Trustees; and Robin Hume, Jackie Livingston, June Minnery, Jean Brown, Independent Trustees; and Bob McCulloch, Interim Head of Housing and Communities, East Ayrshire Council, and Joe McLachlan, Interim Head of Finance and ICT, East Ayrshire Council, ex officio Trustee.

ATTENDING: Anneke Freel, Chief Officer; Jackie Biggart, Head of Corporate Services; Lorraine Russell, Finance and Business Development Manager; and Carleen Fitzgerald, Engagement Support Officer, all East Ayrshire Leisure Trust.

APOLOGIES: Independent Trustee Robbie Mann.

CHAIR: Councillor Elena Whitham, Chair.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2. No declarations of interest were intimated.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

3. There were submitted and approved the minutes of the previous Board meeting held on 6 October 2020 (circulated).

MINUTES OF PERFORMANCE AND AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE OF 10 NOVEMBER 2020

4. There were submitted and noted the minutes of the Performance and Audit Sub-Committee meeting held on 10 November 2020 (circulated).

PERFORMANCE REPORT – JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2020

5. There was submitted a report dated 6 November 2020 (circulated) by the Chief Officer which provided details of the Trust's performance for the period July to September 2020, the second quarter of 2020/21 financial year. Whilst the report provides Trustees with a detailed analysis of Trust performance in the period, it is set within a context of an unprecedented situation brought about by lockdown restrictions associated with Covid 19. Whilst there was an ease in lockdown restrictions affecting leisure services in July 2020, new ways of working were required to take account of government guidance.

The following was also noted:

- The Chief Officer advised that there is an adverse variance of £110,310, which is a significant improvement from the Qtr. 1 projection of £193,898.
- A number of staff have been put back on Furlough following move to level 4, Job Retention Scheme Bonus has been delayed until next year.
- £71k awarded from the Culture Organisations and Venues Recovery Fund which will be included in the Qtr3 report.

- 83% decrease in attendance, have not been able to record River Ayr Way or DCCP figures which will have impacted the total. National Heritage Lottery Fund has confirmed that funding can go towards new counters fitted in the country park.
- E-books showing an increase of 116%, and Annanhill Golf Course up 82% from the same period last year.
- Blended approach to learning introduced where exhibition boxes on Grayson Perry's 'The Vanity of Small Differences' have been sent to 5 secondary schools.
- EAGER process reviewed and is now in line with East Ayrshire Leisure's new values and will be a 'Review of BEST Practice'
- Members of staff are supporting the Test and Protect with costs being recharged.
- Application for the Local Business Restriction fund will be submitted for the level 4 restrictions that are in place.
- J McLachlan advised that the Council will receive funding in respect of loss of income which includes ALEOs. External Auditors to be advised that an allocation will be provided to the Trust.
- Reserves will be monitored closely and the Council and External Auditors will be kept up to date with the current position.
- J McLachlan to contact Procurement to discuss the reappointment of our External Auditors.
- Performance Scorecard – shows average days lost below target, and virtual services performing well.
- No changes to risk register.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the East Ayrshire Leisure Performs Report for the period July to September 2020; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

CUMNOCK AND AUCHINLECK AREA LEISURE PROPOSALS

6. There was submitted a report dated 6 November 2020 (circulated) by the Chief Officer providing the Trustees with an update on the proposal to adopt a place based approach to the leisure facilities in the Cumnock and Auchinleck area. The Trust has commissioned our External Auditors to carry out a due diligence report which will be complete by the end of December.

It was agreed to:-

- (i) Approve the temporary management of Barony Sports Village from 1st January 2021;
- (ii) Remit the Business and Engagement Development Manager to carry out customer and community engagement on the future of Auchinleck Leisure Centre;
- (iii) Remit the Chief Officer to work with Cumnock and District Leisure Group on options for the future management of Visions Leisure Centre
- (iv) Remit the Chief Officer to develop service design proposals for the management of the place based hub for the Cumnock and Auchinleck area
- (v) Remit the Sports Development Manager to work with key stakeholders in the development of a hub partnership; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

7. There was submitted a report dated 6 November 2020 (circulated) by the Chief Officer providing Trustees with updates including:

- The Ayrshire Hospice Forget Me Not Appeal was launched 19 November with flowers currently on sale. The display outside the Dick Institute has been delayed until February due to restrictions.
- The National Heritage Lottery Fund agreed to support the Natural Health Project which will help support vulnerable groups.
- Christmas Activities will take place including Christmas projections at the Cross, Kilmarnock; an Elf Trail at the Dean Castle Country Park; and a light switch on competition.
- Capital Leisure Programme Board update provided on Dean Castle, Morton Hall and Newmilns Library, Palace and Grand Hall Complex, Galston Library and Sports Venues.
- Review of Statutory Performance Indicators (SPIs) will now be presented at the February Board meeting, with implementation in April 2021.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the content of the paper.

The meeting terminated at 18.50 hours.