

EAST AYRSHIRE LEISURE TRUST - BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 4 MARCH 2025 AT 1800 HOURS AT ROSE REILLY SPORTS CENTRE, STEWARTON

PRESENT: Councillors Clare Maitland; Graham Boyd; Iain Linton; and James Adams, Trustees; David Ross; Robert Hannah; and Andy Wilson, Independent Trustees; and Joe McLachlan, Chief Financial Officer and Head of Finance and ICT; East Ayrshire Council, ex officio Trustee

ATTENDING: Anneke Freel, Chief Officer; Jackie Biggart, Executive Lead: People, Policy & Performance; Paul Mathieson, Executive Lead: Places, Projects & Programmes; Lorraine Russell, Strategic Lead: Creating a Solid Foundation for Growth; Greig Russell, Strategic Lead: Leisure at the Heart of the Community; Julie Noble, Development Officer: Lifestyle Hubs; and Carleen Fitzgerald, Development Officer: Organisational Administration, all East Ayrshire Leisure Trust

CHAIR: Clare Maitland

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- I. Melanie Swan; Jim Roberts; Independent Trustees; Councillor Linda Mabon, Trustee; and Richard Grieveson, Depute Chief Executive, East Ayrshire Council, ex officio Trustee

LEISURE AT THE HEART OF EVERY COMMUNITY: IMPLEMENT IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR ROSE REILLY SPORTS CENTRE

4. Greig Russell took the meeting through a presentation in relation to the Active Wellbeing Suite within Rose Reilly Sports Centre.

The following was noted during the discussion:

- The Wellbeing Suite has been kitted out with a range of equipment from Innerva, geared towards the over 55s and people with long term health conditions including limited mobility and general rehabilitation.
- East Ayrshire is the second facility in Scotland to install this Wellbeing Suite.
- Introducing an Active Wellbeing Membership for people that have been referred by their GPs or health professional to the Activity on Prescription scheme which is supported by the Community Health Activity Team (CHAT) and Health & Social Care.
- The first month is free, then 11 direct debits of £10 per month. Following the 12 month period, we would look to migrate them onto one of the Trust's mainstream memberships.
- Partnership has been in place with Strathclyde University in relation to carrying out an impact study. A partnership is also in place with University of Salford.
- The Trust are planning to identify and invest in a wellbeing suite portfolio across East Ayrshire.
- Greig thanked Julie for the work she had done so far in relation to the wellbeing suite.

Greig Russell and Julie Noble left the meeting

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2. No declarations of interest were intimated.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 3.1 There were submitted and approved the minutes of the previous Board meeting held on 12 November 2024 (circulated).

MINUTES OF PERFORMANCE AND AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE OF 25 FEBRUARY 2025

- 3.2 There were submitted and noted the minutes of the Performance and Audit Sub-Committee meeting held on 25 February 2025 (circulated).

PERFORMANCE REPORT OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2024 (Q3)

5. There was submitted a report dated 27 January 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.

The following was discussed:

- Attendance figures for October – December 2024 was 488,348, an increase of 4.8% compared to the same period in 2023/24.
- Stewarton Area Centre, Darvel Town Hall and Cumnock Town Hall performing well with increases of 39%, 36% and 26%, mainly due to the community performing arts programme that's been introduced.
- SGP pitches currently at capacity. The Trust are working with the SFA to see how we address this going forward, grass pitches also being looked at but can't be used all year due to weather/lighting.
- Councillor Linton stated that there had been plans for Moorfield and Altonhill pitches, and asked that these are looked into.
- Leisure facilities are also performing well, particularly Barony Sports Village with an increase of 76%.
- Hunter Fitness Suite and Doon Valley Leisure Centre showing decreases of 30% and 31%. These facilities are usually the most visited fitness centre, therefore there may be an issue with moving to the new reporting system – staff are tracking back to see if there are any anomalies.
- Attendances increased by 20% across the Burns House Museum, Baird Institute and Dick Institute. Engagement programme introduced at The Baird Institute that included the Cumnock Tryst Anniversary exhibition which was well attended. Review of Museums will be brought to the Board in May - looking at changing programmes and opening hours.
- Third quarter of the Corporate Delivery Plan 2024-26 includes 46 strategic outputs. Work is underway on 39 (89%) of the outputs, with 2 now completed.
- Projected outturn at 31 December 2024 is a breakeven position.

- Allocation of £38k from the Museum Galleries Tax Fund was approved by Trustees to be used for major exhibitions, including 'Before and After Coal' exhibition which will be held at the Baird Institute in commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of the Miners' Strike.
- Trustees agreed that the Trust's chosen charity will now be in place for 2 years, therefore SAMH partnership will be extended into 2025-26.
- Allocated Reserves Analysis table shows reserves balances being released as uncommitted reserves.
- Storm damage – Amber warning escalated to red on the Thursday. Vulnerable sites: Annanhill Golf Course and Dean Castle Country Park were closed. Officers worked with specialist contractors and took advice in relation to the Big Top at Ayrshire Athletics Arena. It takes 4 days to the structure down, so decision was taken to leave the Big Top in place and make safe. The Trust were not liable for Big Top structure, and is going through insurance for some damaged equipment. Minimum loss - £600 to restore ground and reseed. No injuries occurred.
- Roof lights to Dick Institute damaged, recurring incident, therefore there are plans to replace roof lights and slate over.
- Damage to wall at Doon Valley Leisure Centre, site was made safe and usable with bookings moved to other parts of the centre.
- Story of Swing and Pink Floyd have been rescheduled to Dean Castle Country Park in June 2025.
- Looking at alternative venues for the pantomime in 2025 and 2026, information will be brought to the Board in May.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the East Ayrshire Leisure Performs report for the period October - December 2024

CHARGES 2025-26

6. There was submitted a report dated 19 February 2025 (circulated) by the Chief Officer that puts forward proposals for the 2025/26 schedule of charges for Trustee consideration and approval.

During discussion on the report, the following was noted:

- 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 now be known as the Wallace Chambers. The Dower House will be available to book as conference/meeting spaces from April. Investment required for the Dower House to convert to a Wedding venue. Chief Officer is starting to speak to funders in relation to the Dick Institute, Dower House and Wallace Chambers for future development proposals.
- Annanhill Golf Course development works now complete, proposing to increase fees from £250 to £275 per year. Staff memberships from £50 to £75
- Active Wellbeing membership being introduced in relation to the Wellbeing Suite within Rose Reilly Sports Centre, first month free then 11 monthly payments of £10.
- Small increase across bar and catering provision to cover rises in hospitality prices.

- Memberships for the Trust and Galleon will be reviewed for next year (2026/27) as part of the transfer of services.

It was agreed:-

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

REMODELLING WORKSHIP

7. The Chief Officer took the meeting through discussions for remodelling of the organisation.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

8. N/A

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

9. Performance & Audit Sub-Committee – 13 May 2025
Trading Subsidiary – 13 May 2025
East Ayrshire Leisure Board of Trustees – 27 May 2025

The meeting terminated at 20.10 hours.