

## **PERFORMANCE AND AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4 FEBRUARY AT 1600 HOURS IN THE WALLACE CHAMBERS, JOHN DICKIE STREET, KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Independent Trustee Jim Roberts; and Councillor Graham Boyd; and Councillor Linda Mabon, Trustees

**ATTENDING:** Anneke Freel, Chief Officer; Jackie Biggart, Director: Centralised Activities; Paul Mathieson, Director: Commercial Activities; and Suzanne Clark, Director: Community Activities; Lorraine Russell, Strategic Lead: Financial Management; and Carleen Fitzgerald, Development Officer: Organisational Administration, all East Ayrshire Leisure Trust

**CHAIR:** Independent Trustee, Jim Roberts.

### **APOLOGIES**

1. Andy Wilson, Independent 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 11 November 2025 (circulated).

### **PERFORMANCE REPORT OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2025 (Q3)**

4. There was submitted a report dated 26 January 2026 (circulated) by the Chief Officer, which provided details of the Trust's performance for the period October - December 2025, the third quarter of the 2025/26 financial year. Given the transfer of additional services and the extensive remodelling exercise, the reporting framework now consists of: a quarterly performance update from the Chief Officer; an Executive Management Priority Action Plan update and a Financial report.

During discussion on the report, the following was noted:

- Attendance figures across Trust venues were 528,823 which is an increase of 8.25% compared to the same period in 2024/25.
- The Trust's performance aspirations continue to be monitored. With the transfer of additional services from the Council to the Trust, the Strategic Vision and associated targets will be reviewed in 2026/27.
- Intervention measures will be put in place for children engaged in education. Teams will go to visit school children, utilising our local greenspaces.
- Risk Register remains as is for this quarter.

- Priority Action Plan:
  - Regional Sports Park – masterplan received from FMG Consulting. Presentation given to the Board, local clubs, SportScotland and national governing bodies. Hopeful that it will attract national and regional events.
  - Cultural Kilmarnock – Tour arranged for Trustees. Traffic management issues identified and being dealt with.
  - Programming strategy developed for full Trust. Guide magazine reintroduced in March to cover the Spring/Summer period.
  - Recruitment Open Day scheduled Saturday 21 Feb at the Dick Institute. Looking to recruit Independent Chair and Trustees, along with our vacant posts. Campaign in place to advertise.
  - Introducing a management appraisal programme for discussion with Trade Unions, will be piloted with the Executive Management team.
  - Galston Town Hall – handover delay due to issue with fire strategy, sprinkler system. Date to be confirmed soon.
  - Burns House Museum sign will be updated along with a new entrance and courtyard at front of building.
  - Ayrshire360 rebrand from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026. Unforms to be phased into venues, with the Galleon first.
- At 30 December 2025, the Trust was sitting at a breakeven financial position.
- Hospitality deficit due to service undergoing transfer and review. Team continuing to increase and service developing well. Management team monitoring closely.
- Debt identified for write off - £12,074.69. Sporting clubs and Communities team ensure groups are supported going forward.

It was agreed:

- (i) to approve the East Ayrshire Leisure Performs Report for the period October – December 2025; and
- (ii) to otherwise note the content of this report.

### **CHARGES 2026/27**

5. There was submitted a report dated 3 February 2026 (circulated) by the Chief Officer, which puts forward proposals for the 2026/27 schedule of charges for Trustees consideration and approval.

During discussion on the report, the following was noted:

- The Chief Officer took the meeting through the proposals for the new charges to integrate the Trust, Galleon and Vibrant Communities.
- Memberships – presentation will be taken to Board. A new pick and mix membership package will allow customers to select the services they need. The Trust will add further options in the future i.e. golf, friends of the Palace etc.

- Staff membership will increase from £5 to £10, if they wish to include access to the Galleon it will be £20 per month.
- East Ayrshire Council, Ayrshire Roads Alliance and East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership will fall under a special strategic-partner offer.
- Discretionary discount categories will be introduced for foster families and care experienced young people. Kinship carers will also be included.
- Strategy for Harmonising Charges – 5% increase to East Ayrshire Leisure charges to help bring in line with Galleon charges. Galleon charges remain frozen.
- Annanhill Golf Course increased from £275 to £290. Various concessionary prices are still available. The Trust is currently working with Annanhill Golf Club and ARA to provide a Cycling Innovation Centre within the parkland which will include a cycling provision course and bike hire. Future plans to extend car park and have golf practice areas.
- Hospitality – minor increase on hospitality prices due to increasing costs of bar and catering provision.
- Equipment Hire – Introduction of charges for equipment hire, packages created to suit groups. Survey of equipment before and after use with clear terms and conditions should be in place. Our next Performance & Audit Sub-Committee meeting will be held within Moorfield to show our equipment.
- Galleon Admission Charges – introduce 10% reduction and will gradually take away through time. Currently taken away for spectator groups. Hospitality kiosk to be placed in foyer before entering the reception.
- School swimming – introduce free school swimming lessons for all P5 pupils starting from Aug 2026. The Trust will work with Visions and New Cumnock to follow same principles so all school areas benefit from initiative. If children are already a good swimmer, will be offered rookie lifeguarding.
- Loyalty Promotion and Sponsorship – role out to all towns. Work with local businesses, offering loyalty discounts etc. and build relationships.

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 – 24 February 2026  
Performance & Audit Sub-Committee – 12 May 2026

The meeting terminated at 1705 hours.