

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14 OCTOBER 2021 AT 1000 HRS BY VIDEO CONFERENCE

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING: Provost Barry Douglas and Councillors Ellen Freel, John McGhee, Helen Coffey, Ian Grant, Maureen McKay, Tom Cook, Iain Linton, Douglas Reid, Fiona Campbell, John Campbell, Jon Herd, John Knapp, Clare Maitland, Jim Todd, Depute Provost Sally Cogley, Councillors George Mair, Claire Leitch, Neil McGhee, Jim Roberts, Alyson Simmons, Billy Crawford, Jim McMahan, Jacqui Todd, Walter Young, John Bell, Elaine Dinwoodie and Drew Filson.

OFFICERS PARTICIPATING: Eddie Fraser, Chief Executive; Katie Kelly, Depute Chief Executive: Communities and Economy; Craig McArthur, Director of Health and Social Care; David Mitchell, Chief Governance Officer; Joe McLachlan, Chief Financial Officer and Head of Finance and ICT; Marion MacAulay, Head of Children's Health, Care and Justice Services; Amanda Lowe, Head of People and Culture; Erik Sutherland, Head of Locality Health and Care Services; and Julie McGarry, Democratic Services Manager.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Gordon Jenkins, John McFadzean, Lilian Jones and Elena Whitham.

CHAIR: Provost Barry Douglas, Chair.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. Councillor Dinwoodie declared a non-financial interest as an employee of NHS Ayrshire and Arran Health Board and given the nature of the interest was not deemed to be significant, having considered the terms of the objective test as outlined in Paragraph 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, did not withdraw from the meeting.

NATIONAL CARE REVIEW

2. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Chief Executive which presented an update on the Scottish Government's consultation: [A National Care Service for Scotland](#) and which sought comment to inform the East Ayrshire Council draft response to the consultation.

In general terms there was agreement that rather than create a new national structure, there was the opportunity to build on existing models and structures through the Integration Joint Board/Health and Social Care Partnership. It was considered that a focus on areas where integration has not been as successful and where collaborative leadership and financial planning and commissioning are not as well developed would perhaps be a better approach. East Ayrshire is able to evidence that the Integration Joint Board and Health and Social Care Partnership approach works well and it was noted that examples of good practice would be highlighted in the Council response.

It was also highlighted that there was currently insufficient information within the consultation to be able to consider fully all the matters contained within it

Members thereafter had the opportunity to comment on the draft response and some of the main issues raised under each Chapter were as follows:-

Chapter 1 – Improving care for people

National standards are welcomed however it was recognised that this would require significant resources; concerns were raised regarding one size fits all approaches; control v delivery; the significant challenges for centralising existing IT systems; risk of data failure/data breaches of sensitive personal data of a centralised system; centralisation of complaints/feedback, particularly where there is a need to ensure lessons learnt can be taken on board locally. It was also noted that the response should include evidence of new innovative models of care e.g. Lilyhill Garden model and highlight the role of the Council as a provider of last resort

ADJOURNMENT/RECONVENTION

3. The meeting adjourned at 1120 hours and reconvened at 1128 hours with the same members and officers present and in attendance

Chapter 2 – National Care Service

Points highlighted included costs associated with creating the Service; what would happen with shared premises where services were colocated; what would the Elected Members role be; support services are integral (Legal, HR, IT, Finance etc.);

Chapter 3 – Scope of the National Care Service

The role of the Chief Social Work Officer is not considered; the wider implications of public sector reforms and the cumulative effect of that; the importance of multi-discipline and collaborative working across services such as Housing and Education; clarity needed on where Justice will sit; the section on alcohol and drugs services and mental health services to be strengthened to explain the important role of the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership and the third sector partners, also the support required for Veterans; timing of the consultation with local elections in 2022 when candidates are deciding whether to stand for election but will be unsure if they don't know what the Council services will look like; consideration as to whether this should be on the Councils Risk Register; costs of the National Social Work Agency

Councillor Coffey left the meeting during discussion on this Chapter

Chapter 4 - Community Health and Social Care Board

The importance of the Council as a provider of last resort again should be considered; finances going to administer the Board not going to the clients that need the services; what would be the VAT status of the CHSCB; the relationships and responsibilities across Public Protection and the joined up collaboration and communication that exists at present; Membership of the CHSCB's;

Chapter 5 – Commissioning of Services

General agreement with the comments contained in this section

Chapter 6 – Regulation

General agreement with the comments contained in this section

Chapter 7 – Fair work and valuing the workforce

These proposals could be achieved locally; Council staff not considered in the consultation so implications for pensions/training/ TUPE unclear;

Following full discussion on the matter, it was agreed:-

- (i) to note the publication of the Scottish Government's consultation on a national care service for Scotland, on 9 August 2021;
- (ii) that officers further strengthen the detailed draft Council response prepared and informed by the Joint Seminar on 10 September 2021, incorporating the comments made at this meeting;
- (iii) to receive the final response on 28 October 2021, prior to submission to the Scottish Government, by the deadline of 2 November; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the report.

The meeting terminated at 1336 hours.