

**LEADERSHIP PANEL (SPECIAL).**

Minutes of special meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,  
on 28th September 2011 at 9.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Bill McIntosh (Chair), Douglas Campbell, Peter Convery, Robin Reid and Margaret Toner.

Apologies: Councillors Hywel Davies and Nan McFarlane.

Attending: D. Anderson, Chief Executive; E. Howat, Executive Director – Corporate Services; L. Bloomer, Executive Director – Development and Environment; H. Garland, Executive Director – Children and Community; V. Andrews, Head of Legal and Administration; J. Cronin, Acting Head of Community Development; J. McQuillan, Head of Property and Neighbourhood Services; A. Greenwood, Asset Co-ordinator; and D. Knight, Committee Services Officer.

Also Attending: Councillors John Allan, Brian Connolly and Bill Grant.

**1. Exclusion of press and public.**

The Panel resolved, in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information in terms of paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

**Corporate and Community Planning – Resources and Performance.**

**2. Item for Call-in – Replacement of Audio Speaker System within Ayr Town Hall.**

Reference was made to the Minutes of the Corporate and Community Planning Standing Scrutiny Panel of 22nd September 2011 (Page 585, paragraph 4) when that Panel, having considered the terms of a call-in from the Leadership Panel of 13th September 2011 (Page 545, paragraph 17) in relation to the replacement of the audio speaker system within Ayr Town Hall, had decided following review, that this matter be referred back to the Leadership Panel inviting Members to endorse a request for an independent acoustic engineer's report to be obtained in respect of the facility together with an evaluation of the current preferred tender to ensure that it met, but did not exceed, the Council's requirements.

The Chair invited Councillor Brian Connolly, Chair of the Corporate and Community Planning Standing Scrutiny Panel to address the Panel and he provided an explanation as to why the Panel had reached its decision to refer this matter back to the Leadership Panel for its re-consideration particularly in terms of the request for an independent acoustic engineer's report.

A full discussion then took place and a number of comments and questions were raised by Members of the Panel in relation to whether any parts of the current audio speaker system could be re-used; who would be authorised to use the audio sound system; the background of how the current system had been tendered and installed, whether the recent renovations at the Town Hall had damaged the current system, and the position with regard to sound systems in other Council buildings and the relevant Officers responded accordingly.

**Decided:**

- (a) that the recommendation of the Corporate and Community Planning Standing Scrutiny Panel should be accepted to endorse a request for an independent acoustic engineer's report to be obtained in respect of the facility together with an evaluation of the current preferred tender to ensure that it met, but did not exceed, the Council's requirements; and
- (b) that a report on the acoustic engineer's findings should be presented to a future meeting of the Leadership Panel.

The meeting ended at 9.15 a.m.