



Ayrshire Chamber, CEO, Val Russell confirms plan to step down this Summer.

The Board of Directors can confirm that Val Russell, CEO has shared her intention to step down at the end of June this year, after almost 23 years' service.

During her 11 years at the helm of the Chamber, Val has grown and developed a strong team, membership network and relationships across Scotland, the U.K and internationally, all with the aim of raising the voice of Ayrshire and the business community at the core.

Val has been central in building the Chamber to the 3rd largest in Scotland and will of course be a massive loss to the Chamber members, associate agencies, and staff. Instrumental to the strategic development of the Chamber and Membership Services, Val has led various projects supporting opportunities for members and the community to thrive, from mentoring services, Developing the Young Workforce and overseas learning journeys to name just a few.

Appointment of Val's successor will commence in the coming weeks. We are fortunate that Val wishes to support in the form of part-time shadowing for a period. This will ensure continuity and the transition to a new CEO who will work with the Board to implement the future strategy.

Val Russell, CEO, said "I have had an amazing tenure at Ayrshire Chamber. I am proud to be leaving a strong and vibrant Chamber and a hard-working dedicated team.

I have had the honour of working with and learning from some amazing Presidents and Board members. However, working with the wide range of fantastic businesses across Ayrshire has been the greatest pleasure.

Collaborating with many valuable stakeholders has allowed Ayrshire Chamber to truly work in partnership with both public and private sector organisations, all with a common aim to make Ayrshire a great place to do business. There is still much to do, and I wish the Board and my successor every success."

Frank Gormanley, President said; *"Val has led and inspired her team to support members, drive new initiatives and help connect people and business to establish prosperous opportunities. A champion of young people; I applaud her inspiring approach with developing the future work force and passion to make a difference. An advocate for charities and the common good – Val has delivered so much on both a personal and business capacity with charities throughout Ayrshire. A well-known and respected face across Ayrshire, and indeed the Scottish Business community – I am full of gratitude and respect for all that Val has made happen during her incredible service and dedication to the Ayrshire Chamber."*

Val leaves the Chamber on an exceptionally strong footing for the future, and the Board of Directors heartily thanks Val for her unwavering leadership and wish her every success going forward.