

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
2 DECEMBER 2015

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held in the Gannochy Suite, Dewar's Centre, Glover Street, Perth on Wednesday 2 December 2015 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors A Stewart, B Vaughan, D Doogan, A Munro and D Cuthbert.

In Attendance: G Gibbons and J Elles, Horsecross Arts Ltd (up to and including Art 777); L Simpson, G Taylor and H Rheinallt (all Corporate and Democratic Services); J Gilruth, J Mayglothling, S Rankin, A Taylor and C Taylor (all Housing and Community Care); K McNamara and B Renton (both The Environment Service); B Atkinson, J Chiles, S Devlin, J Pepper and S Watson (all Education and Children's Services).

Apologies for Absence: Councillors R Brock and A Younger.

Councillor A Stewart, Convener, Presiding

774. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES / SUBSTITUTES

The Convener welcomed all those present to the meeting and apologies for absence were noted as above.

775. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

776. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of the Scrutiny Committee of 23 September 2015 (Arts. 596-606) was submitted, approved as correct record and authorised for signature.

777. HORSECROSS ARTS LTD – A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF HORSECROSS ARTS

The Committee heard a presentation by G Gibbons, Chief Executive of Horsecross Arts Ltd. The presentation covered the following topics: (i) an overview of Horsecross Arts; (ii) its core beliefs; (iii) the numbers of attendees, participants and conference and function delegates; (iv) income, both from its activities and its funding; (v) spending; (vi) activities and events delivered; (vii) its partnerships; (viii) the programming mix delivered; (ix) challenges and opportunities for Horsecross Arts; (x) themes for the future of Perth Theatre; (xi) the future of Horsecross Arts; and (xii) awards received.

The Convener commended G Gibbons on his involvement in Horsecross Arts over the last 9 months, and commented that he would be invited back to the Committee in the future to provide an update on the activities mentioned in the presentation.

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Councillor Doogan requested clarification regarding the operating costs. G Gibbons responded that the Concert Hall is a large and complex building, which is now ten years old, and therefore requires capital replacement and renewal, for example, there is a lot of moveable equipment which requires to be replaced. Councillor Doogan further raised the ongoing discussions between the Council and Horsecross Arts regarding lease arrangements and maintenance. B Atkinson advised that as well as part of a lease common to such an arrangement, maintenance would be considered as part of the Securing the Future Programme, particularly as to whether operating costs for the Council, Horsecross Arts and Live Active Leisure could be reduced by working together.

In response to a query from Councillor Vaughan regarding any work done while Perth Theatre is closed, with a view to its reopening, G Gibbons advised that drama activity is ongoing, and Horsecross Arts is staying alive and active in the theatre world. A Creative Director for drama is currently being recruited; involvement in commissioning will commence in late 2017. Councillor Vaughan further asked for assurance regarding the governance of Horsecross Arts. J Elles gave assurance that the trustees have the appropriate balance of skills which are reviewed when necessary; G Gibbons advised that the organisation has a risk register which is reviewed quarterly by the Policy and Resources sub-group, and then submitted to the Board.

Clarity was sought by Councillor Cuthbert regarding any increase in running costs when Perth Theatre re-opens. G Gibbons acknowledged Councillor Cuthbert's concerns, and clarified that there would be higher running costs, with the challenge to create a funding model that makes current funding do more. For example, the funding from Creative Scotland had been reduced when Perth Theatre had closed; Horsecross Arts would work to return to the original funding when it re-opens.

Councillor Stewart thanked G Gibbons and J Elles for delivering the presentation and answering questions from members of the Committee.

G GIBBONS AND J ELLES LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT

778. JOINT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS PLANS AND ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORTS - SIX MONTH PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

(i) Chief Executive's Service

There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive (Corporate and Community Development Services) and Chief Operating Officer (15/548), reviewing the performance of the former Chief Executive's Service against its Business Management and Improvement Plan (BMIP) for the period 1 April 2015 to 30 September 2015. It was noted that Report 15/548 had been accepted by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee earlier in the day.

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Councillor Cuthbert requested clarification regarding data unavailable at the end of the six month reporting period. G Taylor assured members that options for providing any further data would be considered where possible. Councillor Vaughan commented that, where meaningful data cannot be provided, it is appropriate that officers inform the Committee of any concerns.

Resolved:

The contents of the Chief Executive's Service six-month performance summary against its Business Management and Improvement Plan (BMIP) for the period 1 April 2015 to 30 September 2015, as set out in Report 15/548, be accepted.

(ii) Education and Children's Services

There was submitted a joint report by the Senior Deputy Chief Executive (Equality, Community Planning and Public Service Reform) and the Director of Social Work (15/505), reviewing the performance of Education and Children's Services against its Business Management and Improvement Plan (BMIP) for the period 1 April 2015 to 30 September 2015. It was noted that Report 15/505 had been accepted by the Lifelong Learning Committee on 4 November 2015.

Councillor Cuthbert expressed concern regarding the decline in the number of visitors to indoor facilities in 2015/16 compared to 2014/15. B Atkinson acknowledged Councillor Cuthbert's concerns, and referred to seasonal variations in the number of visitors, as well as a reduction of pay and play facilities in campuses. He assured Councillor Cuthbert that ways to increase access are being considered.

Resolved:

The contents of the Education and Children's Services six-month performance summary against its Business Management and Improvement (BMIP) for the period 1 April 2015 to 30 September 2015, as set out in Report 15/505, be accepted.

(iii) Housing and Community Care

There was submitted a report by the Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate and Community Development Services) (15/447), reviewing the performance of Housing and Community Care against its Business Management and Improvement Plan (BMIP) for the period 1 April 2015 to 30 September 2015. It was noted that Report 15/447 had been accepted by the Housing and Health Committee on 4 November 2015 and the Community Safety Committee on 28 October 2015.

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Resolved:

The contents of Housing and Community Care six-month performance summary against its Business Management and Improvement Plan (BMIP) for the period 1 April 2015 to 30 September 2015, as set out in Report 15/447, be accepted.

(iv) The Environment Service

There was submitted a report by the Director (Environment) (15/446), reviewing the performance of The Environment Service against its Business Management and Improvement Plan (BMIP) for the period 1 April 2015 to 30 September 2015. It was noted that the report was also submitted to the meeting of the Community Safety Committee on 28 October 2015 and the meetings of the Environment and Enterprise and Infrastructure Committees on 11 November 2015.

B Renton assured the Committee that options would be explored for providing any other figures currently not available at the reporting period for the BMIP six-month update.

In response to a query from Council Vaughan regarding the volume of descriptive information in the BMIP, K McNamara gave assurance that a review of performance management is currently taking place.

Resolved:

The contents of The Environment Service's six month performance summary against its Business Management and Improvement Plan (BMIP) for the period 1 April 2015 to 30 September 2015, as set out in Report 15/446, be accepted.

B RENTON LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT

**779. REPORT ON SOCIAL CARE AND SOCIAL WORK IMPROVEMENT
SCOTLAND INSPECTIONS (SCSWIS)**

There was submitted a report by the Director (Housing and Community Care) (15/518), advising the Committee of the key findings of inspections carried out by the Care Inspectorate in Perth and Kinross between September 2014 and August 2015. It was noted that Report 15/518 had been accepted by the Housing and Health Committee on 4 November 2015.

Responding to a question from Councillor Cuthbert regarding the inspection of care homes not operated by the Council, J Gilruth advised that these care homes are inspected by the Care Commission and the reports are made available on the Commission's website. Family members are advised refer to the website if considering a care home. He advised further that D Henderson, Housing and Community Care, also visits all care homes which are privately owned or run by voluntary organisations or charitable trusts.

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Councillor Vaughan requested more information on what support care homes operated by the Council receive between their annual inspections. J Gilruth advised that D Henderson also visits these care homes, and inspections by the Council are carried out in addition to the Care Commission inspections. A quality assurance framework is also being created.

Resolved:

The contents of report 15/518, be noted.

780. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY CARE COMPLAINTS AND CUSTOMER FEEDBACK

There was submitted a report by the Director (Housing and Community Care) (15/521), (1) summarising the Housing and Community Care complaints received between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2015 and details which of these were dealt with at Stage 1 and Stage 2; and (2) giving examples of feedback from customer satisfaction surveys and actions taken to improve services as a result of customer feedback. It was noted that Report 15/521 had been accepted by the Housing and Health Committee on 4 November 2015.

Resolved:

The performance and outcomes in report 15/521, be noted.

781. ATTAINMENT IN PERTH AND KINROSS SCHOOLS 2015

There was submitted a report by the Director (Education and Children's Services) (15/506), (1) presenting a summary analysis of pupil attainment for academic session 2014/15 in Perth and Kinross, specifically in relation to Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) progress with learning and achievement in P4, P7 and S3, and attainment at SCQF levels 5, 6 and 7 in secondary years S4, S5 and S6; and (2) setting out measures to further improve attainment for all Perth and Kinross pupils. It was noted that Report 15/506 had been accepted by the Lifelong Learning Committee on 4 November 2015.

Councillor Doogan highlighted that there would be different challenges for each of the secondary schools, and therefore it could be helpful to have the attainment figures broken down by school. B Atkinson confirmed that this information could be provided. Councillor Vaughan commented that there had been a presentation to the last meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee of Lifelong Learning Committee on closing the gap – understanding the attainment gap of children from different backgrounds. This presentation would be given to the Lifelong Learning Committee in due course, and it may be useful for members of the Scrutiny Committee to attend the meeting.

Resolved:

The contents of report 15/506, be noted.

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**782. PERTH AND KINROSS CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE (CPC)
STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT 2014-2015**

There was submitted a joint report by the Chief Executive and Senior Depute Chief Executive (Equality, Community Planning and Public Service Reform) (15/421), (1) providing an overview of the key activities and work of the CPC to protect children and young people from abuse and neglect; and (2) presenting the findings from a wide range of CPC-led single agency and multi-agency self-evaluation activity. It was noted that Report 15/421 had been accepted by the Council on 7 October 2015.

In response to a query from Councillor Stewart regarding introduction of a named person for each child, J Pepper advised that it is an important way of identifying children at risk earlier, but it is still everyone's job to look after children.

In response to a query from Councillor Vaughan regarding the *How Good is Our School at Helping Me to Stay Safe Survey*, J Pepper assured the Committee that the surveys had been undertaken after a fair amount of preparation; thought would be given to how this type of survey could be replicated elsewhere.

In response to a further query from Councillor Vaughan regarding young carers in schools, B Atkinson advised that a significant amount of work is being done with schools to ensure that young carers are identified.

Resolved:

The contents of report 15/421, be noted.

783. SCHOOL COMPLAINTS – ACADEMIC YEAR 2014-2015

There was submitted a report by the Director (Education and Children's Services) (15/549), presenting to the Committee the school complaints information for the Academic Year 2014-2015.

Councillor Cuthbert expressed concern that only 17% of complainants had been responded to within 20 working days at stage 2 investigations. S Devlin responded that often, the response is delayed due to the need to agree aspects of the complaint with the complainant before it is issued. Where complaints have been referred to the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman, it does not often identify issues with the process. However, this would continue to be monitored. Councillor Doogan queried the setting of targets, however, Councillor Cuthbert advised that the target is set by the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman and not the Council.

Councillor Vaughan expressed concern that only 72% of letters had been acknowledged within 3 working days. S Watson responded that best practice is to appoint an investigating officer before the letter is acknowledged, and for some complex complaints this can take time.

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In response to a query from Councillor Vaughan regarding the stage 1 complaints training delivered in schools, S Watson responded that five briefing sessions had been delivered in schools to headteachers and staff; more would be delivered in future. There is also a wide variety of other support, for example telephone support, forms, and a service newsletter.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of report 15/549, be noted.
- (ii) The work that is continuing to promote and further embed the CHP across all schools through ongoing advice, support and briefing/training sessions, be noted.

784. SIXTH SCRUTINY REVIEW: PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

There was submitted a report by Head of Strategic Commissioning and Organisational Development (15/550), outlining the scope of the sixth scrutiny review to be undertaken by the Scrutiny Committee. The purpose of the review is to consider how effectively the Council uses its powers to enforce planning control.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of report 15/550, be approved.
- (ii) It be agreed that a final report and findings from the review be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee before 31 March 2016.

IT WAS AGREED THAT THE PUBLIC AND PRESS SHOULD BE EXCLUDED DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM IN ORDER TO AVOID THE DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION WHICH IS EXEMPT IN TERMS OF SCHEDULE 7A TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1973.

785. MINUTE OF MEETING OF SOCIAL WORK COMPLAINTS REVIEW COMMITTEE OF 2 SEPTEMBER 2015

There was submitted and noted the minute of meeting of the Social Work Complaints Review Committee of 2 September 2015.

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