

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
6 FEBRUARY 2019

## **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Minute of meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held in the Council Chamber, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 6 February 2019 at 2.25pm.

Present: Councillors G Laing, A Parrott, H Coates, M Barnacle, D Doogan, D Illingworth, R McCall (substituting for Councillor C Ahern), T McEwan, C Purves and C Stewart.

In Attendance: K McNamara, Depute Director (Housing and Environment); J Pepper, Depute Director (Education and Children's Services); R Hill and J Chiles (both Education and Children's Services); L Simpson, L Gowans, D McPhee, S Munro and D Williams (all Corporate and Democratic Services).

Apologies: Councillor C Ahern.

Councillor G Laing, Convener, Presiding.

### **66. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

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

### **67. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

### **68. MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OF 28 NOVEMBER 2018**

The minute of meeting of the Scrutiny Committee of 28 November 2018 (Arts. 688-698) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

### **69. EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES SIX MONTH PERFORMANCE SUMMARY 2018**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (19/32) reviewing the performance of the Education and Children's Services against its Business Management and Improvement Plan (BMIP) for the period 1 April 2018 to 30 September 2018.

In response to queries from Councillors Illingworth and McCole, J Pepper advised that performance in relation to meeting the locally agreed timescales for child protection case conferences, adding that, whilst there had been incremental improvement over the last three years, there had been a drop in the last three months. J Pepper further informed members that the primary issue for the reduction in performance was that case conferences had not been quorate, advising members

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of the required participation of the core agencies. J Pepper indicated to members that the matter had been referred to the Child Protection Committee for closer examination and to ensure that there was remedial action taken to address performance.

In response to a query from Councillor Stewart regarding the number of subjects available to students in S4 and S5, R Hill, Education and Children's Services, informed members that a wide range of subjects were available to students, but was dependent upon the school. In response to a further query from Councillor Stewart, R Hill advised that digital learning was in process.

In response to a query from Councillor Laing regarding resources of adult volunteers for the Duke of Edinburgh Awards, R Hill informed members that there was room for more participants in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards, and that the issue of recruiting adult volunteers would be addressed.

**Resolved:**

The contents of Report 19/32, be noted.

J PEPPER, R HILL AND J CHILES ALL LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

**70. EQUALITIES PERFORMANCE REPORT 2017/18**

There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive, Chief Operating Officer (18/414) seeking scrutiny and comment on the Equalities Report 2017/18.

In response to a query from Councillor Illingworth regarding Interpreting services in Perth and Kinross, D McPhee, Corporate and Democratic Services, advised that close work was being undertaken with Partners to provide Interpreting services.

In response to a query from Councillor McCall regarding Sign Language provision, D McPhee informed members that a Sign Language programme is being rolled out and emphasised the importance of maintaining positive progress in this regard.

**Resolved:**

The contents of Report 18/253, be noted.

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