

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
29 NOVEMBER 2017

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held in the Council Chamber, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 29 November 2017 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors G Laing, S McCole, H Anderson, B Brawn (substituting for Councillor C Ahern), H Coates, S Donaldson (substituting for Councillor A Parrott), D Doogan, D Illingworth, T McEwan, C Purves, and C Stewart.

In Attendance: B Renton (Interim Executive Director, The Environment Service); J Chiles, P Davison, R Hill, S Johnston and J Pepper (Education and Children's Services); C Cranmer and C Mailer (both Housing and Community Safety); C Hendry (Perth and Kinross Health and Social Care Partnership); K McNamara, F Robertson, L Simpson, G Taylor, S Richards and D Williams (all Corporate and Democratic Services);

Apologies: Councillors C Ahern and A Parrott.

Councillor G Laing, Convener, Presiding.

677. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

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

678. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

679. MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OF SEPTEMBER 2017

The minute of meeting of the Scrutiny Committee of September 2017 (Arts. 495-503) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

680. UPDATE BY ARMS LENGTH EXTERNAL ORGANISATION – HORSECROSS ARTS LTD.

M Linklater, Chair; G Gibbons, Chief Executive; L Kemp, Artistic Director; and C McKenzie, Finance Director all Horsecross Arts Ltd., were in attendance and answered members' questions. Members sought assurance on matters such as: early progress on the recently re-opened Perth Theatre; shared services with other Arms' Length External Organisations; space for training and skills development at Horsecross Arts Ltd.; venues; work undertaken with local schools and colleges; the financial position of Horsecross Arts Ltd.; experience and make-up of the Board; outreach activity across Perth & Kinross; and Perth Theatre's role in economic regeneration.

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
29 NOVEMBER 2017

The Convener thanked all of the representatives for their attendance, and advised that representatives of the Arms' Length External Organisations would be regularly invited to attend meetings of the Scrutiny Committee on a rotational basis. The representatives of Horsecross Arts Ltd. left the meeting at this point.

681. THE ENVIRONMENT SERVICE SIX MONTH PERFORMANCE SUMMARY 2017

There was submitted a report by the Interim Executive Director (Environment) (17/366) reviewing the performance of the Environment Service against its Business Management and Improvement Plan (BMIP) for the period 1 April to 30 September 2017. It was noted that Report 17/366 had been approved by the Environment, Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee on 8 November 2017.

In response to a query from Councillor Donaldson regarding European Union funding sources post-March 2019 when the United Kingdom was expected to leave the European Union, B Renton informed members that the only guarantee that had been received was that the funding sources already in place would run until the dates already specified.

Councillor Doogan highlighted the positive progress on the Perth City Plan, and sought an assurance on continued private sector investment. B Renton confirmed that a number of positive discussions were ongoing and in particular there was a firm commitment that work would begin at Thimble Row, Perth early in 2018, with scheduled completion in 2019.

Councillor Laing raised a query regarding the introduction of 15 minutes free parking in places across Perth & Kinross, and sought information on both uptake and whether there had been any issues with enforcement. B Renton responded that she was not aware of any enforcement issues and that the scheme had been well received by both shoppers and retailers, but that she would provide figures for the Committee.

Resolved:

The contents of The Environment Service six-month performance summary against its Business Management and Improvement Plan (BMIP) for the period 1 April 2017 to 30 September 2017, as set out in Report 17/366, be accepted.

B RENTON LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT

682. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY SIX – MONTH PERFORMANCE SUMMARY 2017

There was submitted a report by the Interim Director (Housing and Community Safety) (17/362) reviewing the performance of Housing and Community Safety against its Business Management and Improvement Plan (BMIP) for the period 1 April 2017 to 30 September 2017. It was noted that Report 17/362 had been approved by the Housing and Communities Committee on 1 November 2017.

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
29 NOVEMBER 2017

In response to a query from Councillor Doogan on the approach by the Council and its Community Planning Partners to the situation of people begging in Perth City Centre, C Mailer assured members that discussion was taking place across the Council and with partners around this.

In response to a query from Councillor Stewart regarding areas where Perth & Kinross was behind the Scottish Averages, C Mailer stated that other local authorities have been known to garner responses by face-to-face interaction with tenants. C Mailer added that Perth & Kinross Council would be taking a wider survey approach next year.

Resolved:

The contents of the Housing and Community Safety six-month performance summary against its Business Management and Improvement Plan (BMIP) for the period 1 April 2017 to 30 September 2017, as set out in Report 17/462, be accepted.

COUNCILLOR MCEWAN, C CRANMER, C HENDRY AND C MAILER LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT

683. EDUCATION AND CHILDRENS SERVICES – SIX MONTH PERFORMANCE SUMMARY 2017

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (17/353) reviewing the performance of Education and Children's Services against its Business Management and Improvement Plan (BMIP) for the period 1 April 2017 to 30 September 2017. It was noted that Report 17/353 had been approved by Lifelong Learning Committee on 1 November 2017.

In response to a query from Councillor Illingworth regarding the benefits of developing the plan for Children, Young People and Families on a Tayside basis, S Johnston informed members that whilst the plan was based on Tayside to align with the Tayside Health Board, collaboration was ongoing with a number of other areas also, all of which added value to the services for Children & Young People.

COUNCILLOR S MCCOLE LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT

Resolved:

The contents of the Education and Children's Services six-month performance summary against its Business Management and Improvement Plan (BMIP) for the period 1 April 2017 to 30 September 2017, as set out in Report 17/353, be accepted.

684. RAISING ATTAINMENT STRATEGY UPDATE 2017

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (17/354) (1) providing a progress update on the Raising Attainment Strategy 2016-2019 and (2) presenting information on a range of main and supporting measures designed to both improve performance and monitor progress of improvements.

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
29 NOVEMBER 2017

Resolved:

The progress with the Raising Attainment Strategy, as set out in Report 16/354, be accepted.

J CHILES, P DAVISON, R HILL AND S JOHNSTON LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT

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.

685. MINUTE OF MEETING OF SOCIAL WORK COMPLAINTS REVIEW COMMITTEE OF 3 AUGUST 2017

There was submitted and noted the minute of meeting of the Social Work Complaints Review Committee of 19 May 2017.

THE PUBLIC AND PRESS WERE RE-ADMITTED TO THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

686. FUTURE SCRUTINY ACTIVITY

K McNamara, Head of Community Planning, Strategic Commissioning and Organisational Development, updated members on proposed future activity of the Scrutiny Committee following a workshop which had taken place on 6 November 2017, which had agreed a more pro-active approach for the Scrutiny Committee's work.

~~~~~