

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
27 NOVEMBER 2019

## **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Minute of meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held in the Council Chamber, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 27 November 2019 at 1.00pm.

Present: Councillors G Laing, A Parrott, C Ahern, M Barnacle, B Brawn, H Coates, E Drysdale (substituting for D Doogan), A Jarvis (from Art. 602(i)) (substituting for C Purves), D Illingworth, S McCole, T McEwan and C Reid.

In Attendance: J Valentine, Depute Chief Executive (up to and including Art. 602(i)); B Renton, Executive Director (Housing and Environment) (up to and including Art. 603); S Devlin, Executive Director (Education and Children's Services); J Pepper, Depute Director (Education and Children's Services); K Donaldson, Depute Director (Corporate and Democratic Services) (up to and including Art. 605); C Hendry (up to and including Art. 603) and M Notman (Housing and Environment); J Chiles, R Drummond and D MacLeod (up to and including Art. 606) (both Education and Children's Services); L Simpson, F Robertson, S Walker, M Terava and D Williams (all Corporate and Democratic Services); B Atkinson, Independent Chair (Perth and Kinross Child Protection Committee and Perth and Kinross Adult Protection Committee).

Apologies: Councillors D Doogan and C Purves.

Councillor G Laing, Convener, Presiding.

### **599. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

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

### **600. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor H Coates declared a non-financial interest in Art. 602(i).

Councillors A Parrott and C Ahern both declared a non-financial interest in Art. 602(ii).

Councillors G Laing and T McEwan both declared a non-financial interest in Art. 602(iii).

### **601. MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OF 18 SEPTEMBER 2019**

The minute of meeting of the Scrutiny Committee of 18 September 2019 (Arts. 452-457) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

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**602. UPDATE BY ARMS-LENGTH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS**

**(i) Horsecross Arts Ltd**

COUNCILLOR JARVIS ENTERED THE MEETING DURING CONSIDERATION OF THIS ITEM.

F Robertson and S Walker, both Corporate and Democratic Services, delivered a slide-based presentation updating members on the financial performance and wider governance and operational challenges that they had identified within Horsecross Arts Ltd.

The Committee were advised of the appointment of a new Chief Executive for Horsecross Arts Ltd., Nick Williams, taking up post on 2 December 2019.

M Linklater, Chair, and J Elles, Board Member, Horsecross Arts Ltd, gave an update on progress from Board perspective and answered members' questions.

Members sought assurance on matters such as: the work of Horsecross Arts Ltd. in schools; youth theatre; and the wider economic benefits of cultural programmes to the area.

The Convener thanked the representatives for their attendance, and they left the meeting at this point.

J VALENTINE LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

**(ii) Culture Perth and Kinross**

H Smout, Chief Executive and J Findlay QC, Board Member, Culture Perth and Kinross, gave an update on progress and answered members' questions.

Members sought assurance on matters such as: visitor numbers to Culture Perth and Kinross facilities; the work of Culture Perth and Kinross with other projects in Perth and Kinross; and means of funding.

The Convener thanked the representatives for their attendance, and they left the meeting at this point.

**(iii) Live Active Leisure Ltd**

Having declared a non-financial interest in this item, Councillor Laing remitted the chair to Councillor Parrott, Vice-Convener, who presided for the following item.

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P Cromwell, Chief Executive Live Active Leisure Ltd., gave an update on progress and answered members' questions.

Members sought assurance on matters such as: targets on concession visitor numbers; promotion of concessions; and engagement with groups regarding the qualification for concessions. A video was displayed to members as part of the presentation.

The Convener thanked the representatives for their attendance, and they left the meeting at this point.

**603. HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT SIX MONTH PERFORMANCE SUMMARY 2019/20 - EXCEPTION REPORT**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Environment) (19/298) reviewing the performance of Housing and Environment against its Business Management and Improvement Plan for the period 1 April to 30 September 2019. It was noted that Report 19/298 had been accepted by the Housing and Communities Committee and the Environment and Infrastructure Committee on 30 October 2019.

In response to a query from Councillor Drysdale regarding timing of the final signing of the Tay Cities deal. B Renton, Executive Director (Housing and Environment), advised that there had been a delay due to the forthcoming General Election, but that the expectation was that this would come early in 2020.

In response to a query from Councillor Parrott regarding rent arrears targets, B Renton advised that this was being monitored with robust measures in place, advising members that there had been some improvement in this area.

**Resolved:**

The contents of the Housing and Environment Six Month Performance Summary 2019/20 Exception Report for the period 1 April 2019 to 30 September 2019, as set out in Appendix 1 to Report 19/298, be accepted.

B RENTON AND C HENDRY LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

**604. EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES INTERIM PERFORMANCE SUMMARY 2019**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (19/299) reviewing the performance of the Education and Children's Services against its Business Management and Improvement Plan for the period since 1 April 2019. It was noted that Report 19/298 had been accepted by the Housing and Communities Committee on 30 October 2019 and the Lifelong Learning Committee on 6 November 2019.

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**Resolved:**

The contents of the Education and Children's Services Interim Performance Summary 2019 for the period since 1 April 2019, as set out in Appendix 1 to Report 19/299, be accepted.

**605. CORPORATE AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES SIX MONTH PERFORMANCE SUMMARY 2019/20 - EXCEPTION REPORT**

There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive (Chief Operating Officer) (19/347) reviewing the performance of Corporate and Democratic Services against its Business Management and Improvement Plan for the period 1 April to 30 September 2019.

In response to a query from Councillor McCole regarding the availability of services online via MyPKC, K Donaldson, Depute Director (Corporate and Democratic Services), advised members that alternative means of services were available, and highlighted the importance of catering to various different needs.

**Resolved:**

The contents of the Corporate and Democratic Services Six Month Performance Summary 2019/20 Exception Report for the period 1 April to 30 September 2019, as set out in Appendix 1 to Report 19/347, be accepted.

K DONALDSON LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

**606. ATTAINMENT AND PUPIL EQUITY FUNDING UPDATE 2019**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (19/322) (1) providing a progress update for 2019 on Attainment and closing the poverty-related attainment gap and the use of Pupil Equity Funding (PEF); and (2) presenting information on a range of measures designed to both improve performance and monitor progress of improvements, meeting the requirements to report on the National Improvement Framework for education. It was noted that Report 19/322 had been considered by the Lifelong Learning Committee on 6 November 2019.

Councillor Drysdale praised attainment in literacy and numeracy, and raised a query regarding attainment in writing. S Devlin, Executive Director (Education and Children's Services), responded that a number of processes had been tried over the years in order to raise attainment in writing, advising that nationalised measures were proving to be useful, adding that she was hoping to see an upward trend in attainment in this area.

**Resolved:**

The contents of Report 19/322 be accepted.

D MACLEOD LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

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**607. PERTH AND KINROSS CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE (CPC)  
STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT 2018/2019**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Social Work Officer (19/347) (1) providing an overview of the key activities and work of the Child Protection Committee to protect children and young people from harm, abuse and exploitation; (2) identifying achievements, key strengths and areas for further improvement; and (3) setting out the Child Protection Committees programme of improvement work for the next twelve months and beyond.

In response to a query from Councillor Drysdale, J Pepper, Depute Director (Education and Children's Services), stressed the importance of raising concerns, advising members that the facility to raise concerns was available twenty-four hours a day every day of the year.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The Child Protection Committee Standards and Quality Report 2018/2019, as set out in Appendix 1 to Report 19/347, be accepted.
- (ii) The contents of the Child Protection Committee Improvement Plan 2018-2020 at 31 July 2019, as set out in Appendix 2 to Report 347, be accepted.
- (iii) The Child Sexual Exploitation Work Plan 2017-2020 at 31 July 2019, as set out in Appendix 3 to Report 19/347, be accepted.
- (iv) It be noted that Report 19/347 will be submitted to the next meeting of Perth and Kinross Council on 18 December 2019 for noting and endorsement.

**608. ADULT SUPPORT AND PROTECTION ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Social Work Officer (19/348) providing an update of the work of the Perth and Kinross Adult Protection Committee and activity over the 2018-2019 information to protect adults who may be at risk of harm.

In response to a query from Councillor McCole, B Atkinson, Independent Chair (Perth and Kinross Child Protection Committee and Perth and Kinross Adult Protection Committee), advised that a lot of work had been undertaken with the care sector, with training undertaken to make those working in the care sector aware of their obligations with regards to adult protection. B Atkinson also highlighted to members the importance of reporting concerns, similar to that of Child Protection.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The contents of the Adult Support and Protection Annual Report, as set out in Appendix 1 to Report 19/348, be accepted.
- (ii) It be noted that Report 19/348 will be submitted to the next meeting of Perth and Kinross Council on 18 December 2019 for noting.

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**609. COUNCIL COMPLAINTS PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR 2018-19**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal and Governance Services (19/349) advising of work undertaken to improve performance in relation to the Council's handling of complaints.

In response to a query from Councillor Drysdale regarding comparison with other Local Authorities, L Simpson, Corporate and Democratic Services, informed members that there were user groups on this matter with other Local Authorities, but advised that different Local Authorities had different thresholds with regards to complaints.

In response to a query from Councillor McEwan regarding a group of complaints leading to change, L Simpson advised that feedback to services from complaints was an essential part of the complaints process.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The contents of Report 19/349 be accepted.
- (ii) It be noted that the performance of the Complaints Handling Procedure will continue to be monitored and reviewed throughout the year.

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

**610. Urgent Item of Business**

The Convener confirmed that in terms of Standing Orders it was his opinion that an additional item of business be considered as a matter of urgency as set out in the Supplementary minute (Exempt from Publication).

**Resolved:**

As set out in the Supplementary minute (Exempt from Publication).

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