

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
18 APRIL 2018

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held in the Council Chamber, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 18 April 2018 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors G Laing, S McCole, C Ahern, H Anderson, K Baird (substituting for Councillor H Coates), D Doogan, A Jarvis (substituting for Councillor D Illingworth), A Parrott, C Purves and C Stewart.

In Attendance: B Renton (Executive Director, Housing and Environment); S Devlin (Executive Director, Education and Children's Services); K McNamara (Depute Director, Housing and Environment); J Pepper (Depute Director, Education and Children's Services); C McCarthy, F Robertson, L Simpson, G Taylor, C Vaskevicius and D Williams (all Corporate and Democratic Services); R Hill, S Johnston, James Chiles and P Davidson (all Education and Children's Services); M Dow (Housing and Environment).

Apologies: Councillors H Coates and D Illingworth.

Councillor G Laing, Convener, Presiding.

201. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

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

202. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor G Laing declared a non-financial interest in Item 4(i).

203. MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OF 7 FEBRUARY 2018

The minute of meeting of the Scrutiny Committee of 7 February 2018 (Arts.69-77) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

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

204. UPDATE BY ARMS' LENGTH EXTERNAL ORGANISATION

(i) Live Active Leisure

J Moyes, Chief Executive; P Cromwell, Chief Executive Designate; and M Robinson, Chair, Live Active Leisure, provided a verbal update on progress with governance; business performance and highlights / challenges and opportunities during 2017/18; and answered members' questions.

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Members sought assurance on matters such as: opportunities and participation of girls in sporting activities; the Active Under 10's scheme; the estate of Live Active Leisure; Community Sports Hubs.

Councillor McCole paid tribute to J Moyes, outgoing Chief Executive of Live Active Leisure, thanking him for his contribution to Live Active Leisure. Councillors Laing and Doogan also extended their thanks to J Moyes.

The Convener thanked the representatives of Live Active Leisure for their attendance and they left the meeting at this point.

COUNCILLOR LAING RESUMED THE CHAIR AT THIS POINT.

F ROBERTSON LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

THE COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO VARY THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AT THIS POINT.

205. SUMMARY REPORT ON CARE INSPECTORATE AND EDUCATION SCOTLAND INSPECTIONS

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (18/139) providing an overview of the performance of Education and Children's Services inspected and reported on over the past year by the Care Inspectorate and Education Scotland and setting out the Services' approach to implementing improvement actions arising out of the inspection findings.

In response to a comment from Councillor Parrott regarding the good performance being achieved in Perth and Kinross compared with other local authorities, S Devlin, Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) highlighted the importance of leadership and support for staff in being able to deliver positive results. S Johnston, Education and Children's Services, emphasised the strength of the work being undertaken with partner providers, and in particular the work with nurseries, playgroups and childminders.

S Devlin also brought to the attention of the Committee the positive findings of the report published by the Care Inspectorate on 17 April 2018 on integrated Children's Services delivered by Perth and Kinross Community Planning Partners. S Devlin paid tribute to staff in achieving these positive results, and informed members that the report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Council. Councillor Laing highlighted the professionalism involved in achieving such results and Councillor Baird extended her congratulations to those involved.

Resolved:

The contents of the Summary Report on Care Inspectorate and Education Scotland Inspections, be noted.

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206. LOCAL GOVERNMENT BENCHMARKING FRAMEWORK 2016/17

There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer (18/138) presenting a summary of Perth and Kinross Council's performance during 2016/17 against the Local Government Benchmarking Framework indicators published by the Improvement Service on 12 February 2018.

The benchmarking data helps the Council, members of the public and other stakeholders see how Perth and Kinross Council is performing in key areas compared to other local authorities.

Councillor Laing raised a query regarding council tax collection costs being higher in Perth and Kinross than the Scottish National Average. In response, C Hendry, Housing and Environment, stated that different local authorities included different overhead costs when calculating council tax collection costs, and that Perth and Kinross Council's figures included all related service centre costs. Councillor Doogan stated that this was a helpful interim answer, adding that he would like to see further information on this at a future date.

Councillor Parrott stated that he saw the figures in the benchmarking data as a starting point for further inquiry, highlighting that different local authorities had different priorities. With regards to a specific point raised by Councillor Parrott regarding the time taken for non-emergency repairs, M Dow, Housing and Environment, responded that there had been some improvement in performance but that this was not reflected in the report due to the time-lag with the publication of the report.

Councillor Stewart raised a query regarding the comparative family groups in the Local Government Benchmarking Framework, and specifically whether local authorities had any input into who would appear in their family group. In response, B Renton, Executive Director (Housing and Environment), informed members that family groups were allocated by the Improvement Service, adding that Perth and Kinross were one of only two local authorities to belong to multiple family groups.

Resolved:

The Committee noted the Local Government Benchmarking Framework results for 2016/17, and that the results would be used to inform the development of the Council's Transformation Programme and the Council's wider performance management and planning framework.

207. SCRUTINY FORWARD PLANNER 2018/19

There was submitted and noted a report by the Depute Chief Executive & Chief Operating Officer (18/140) presenting a forward planner for scrutiny at Perth and Kinross Council in 2018/19.

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.

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**208. MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE SOCIAL WORK COMPLAINTS REVIEW
COMMITTEE OF 12 OCTOBER 2017**

There was submitted and noted the minute of the Social Work Complaints Review Committee of 12 October 2017.

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