

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
21 SEPTEMBER 2016

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held in the Hay Room, Dewar's Centre, Glover Street, Perth on Wednesday 21 September 2016 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors B Vaughan, K Baird, D Cuthbert, D Doogan, J Flynn, A Younger.

In Attendance: N Brian, C Jolly, K McNamara and B Renton (all The Environment Service); S Devlin (Education and Children's Services); L Brown, G Fogg, L Simpson and G Taylor (all Corporate and Democratic Services); J Mayclothling (Housing and Community Care).

Apology for Absence: Councillor A Munro.

Councillor B Vaughan, Convener, Presiding

652. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Convener welcomed all those present to the meeting. An apology for absence was noted as above.

653. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

654. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of the Scrutiny Committee of 15 June (Arts. 464-474) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

655. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

656. SIXTH SCRUTINY REVIEW: PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive, Environment (Sustainability, Strategic and Entrepreneurial Development) (16/397) on the Sixth Scrutiny Review undertaken in relation to the activities of the Council's Planning Enforcement Service, detailing the work undertaken to investigate the Service and recommending areas for improvement.

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
21 SEPTEMBER 2016

C Jolly confirmed in response to a request for clarification from Councillor Cuthbert that there were a number of scenarios where it would not be appropriate to go back to a complainant on enforcement action. N Brian added that levels of expectation about action that could be taken and how that is managed would be considered within the next review of the Planning Enforcement Charter. It was noted that as part of the review, new ways of promoting the Enforcement Charter should be explored as well as making the Charter more accessible to the public.

In responding to a question from Councillor Doogan on the consistency in the application of enforcement action relating to advertisement signage, N Brian confirmed that wherever possible officers tried to find a balance between consistency of approach and the potential impact of enforcement action on small businesses. It was noted that consistency of approach could be included on the agenda for discussion at a future meeting of the Planning Policy and Practice Member Officer Working Group.

The Convener paid tribute to the work of Councillor Alexander Stewart in chairing the Sixth Scrutiny Review in his previous role as Convener of the Scrutiny Committee. She thanked the officers of the planning and legal departments for their very positive and helpful contributions to the Review. She further thanked all other officers who had supported the review; Councillors for their responses to the survey; and the many community organisations and developers who had expressed their views on planning enforcement.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 16/397 and the summary of recommendations detailed in paragraphs 5.1 to 5.6 of Appendix 1 be approved.
- (ii) A progress report on the implementation of the recommendations be submitted to the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee on 19 April 2017.

657. SEVENTH SCRUTINY REVIEW – “ROLE OF SCRUTINY IN A CHANGING WORLD”

There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive, Environment (Sustainability, Strategic and Entrepreneurial Development) (16/398) proposing a Seventh Scrutiny Review on the wider role of elected members in scrutinising Council Services and the lessons learned from the Scrutiny Reviews carried out so far. The review will focus on possible amendments to the Scrutiny Guide 2014, given the changing environment in which Perth and Kinross Council operates.

Councillor Doogan suggested that as part of the review, there should be consideration of how scrutiny could be more reactive in future.

Resolved:

The scope of the Seventh Scrutiny Review, as set out in Report 16/398, be agreed.

658. PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL BUSINESS PLAN 2016-2019

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
21 SEPTEMBER 2016

There was submitted a report by the Senior Depute Chief Executive (Equality, Community Planning and Public Service Reform) (16/399) setting out a Business Plan for Perth and Kinross Council, to ensure that the Council is fit for purpose to meet the significant challenges facing local government and is organised to deliver the best outcomes for the Council's communities.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Vaughan on the effectiveness of participatory budgeting, K McNamara advised of plans to hold a workshop in November 2016 to advance thinking on this.

Councillor Cuthbert referred to the terms of the community empowerment legislation and enquired why the Council's Business Plan did not recognise the community as a resource. K McNamara advised that the Council did recognise the community as an asset, however, the Business Plan set out how the Council is organised to deliver internally and provided details of its physical resources. He added that community resource is reflected in the Community Plan and the anticipated local outcome improvement plans.

Councillor Cuthbert requested that his dissent be recorded on the failure to record the community as a resource within the Council Business Plan.

Resolved:

- (i) It be noted that the Business Plan was approved by the Council on 22 June 2016 (Article 515 refers).
- (ii) The contents of Report 16/399 be accepted.
- (iii) It be noted that six monthly reports will be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee on the implementation plan, and that annual reports will be submitted to both the Council and the Scrutiny Committee.

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.

659. MINUTE OF MEETING OF SOCIAL WORK COMPLAINTS REVIEW COMMITTEE OF 27 MAY 2016

There was submitted and noted the minute of meeting of the Social Work Complaints Review Committee of 27 May 2016.