

SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting of the Scrutiny and Performance Committee held in the Council Chambers, 2 High Street, Perth, on Monday 8 June 2022 at 10.00am.

Present: Councillor C Stewart, Bailie A Bailey, Councillors K Allan, S Carr, E Drysdale, A Forbes, M Frampton, I Massie, W Robertson, C Shiers and F Smith.

In Attendance: B Renton, Executive Director (Communities); S Devlin, Executive Director (Education and Children's Services); C Mailer, M Butterworth, S Crawford Crofts, C Hendry and A Seggie (all Communities); S Johnston, J Chiles, G Doogan, D Macluskey, H Robertson S Stephen and S Strathearn (all Education and Children's Services); L Simpson, S Mackenzie, A Taylor, P Johnstone, D Williams, A Brown, and M Pasternack (all Corporate and Democratic Services).

Councillor C Stewart, Convener, Presiding.

The Vice-Convener, Bailie A Bailey, led discussion on Items 5 and 7.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Convener welcomed all those present to the meeting. There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made in terms of Councillor's Code of Conduct.

3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OF 25 APRIL 2022

The minute of meeting of the Scrutiny Committee of 25 April 2022 was submitted and approved as a correct record

4. SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE – FUTURE WAYS OF WORKING

Councillor Stewart led an update on Scrutiny and Performance – Future Ways of Working.

Councillor Stewart advised members that an Outstanding Business Statement would be introduced as a standing item at Scrutiny and Performance Committee.

Councillor Stewart also advised that it would be his intention for the Scrutiny and Performance Committee to undertake an increased number of Scrutiny and Performance Reviews. Councillor Stewart further advised that it was intended that a Forward Planner be put in place for items coming before the Scrutiny and Performance Committee.

Councillor Shiers commented that she would like for reports recommended to the Scrutiny and Performance Committee by Service Committees to be dealt with in a timely fashion.

5. UPDATE ON SCRUTINY REVIEWS

Bailie Bailey provided an update on outstanding Scrutiny and Performance Reviews.

Bailie Bailey advised that a detailed update would be presented to the next meeting of the Scrutiny and Performance Committee with regards to a proposed Scrutiny and Performance Review into the dispersal of funds to community groups during the Emergency Powers period.

6. SERVICE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORTS AND BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PLANS

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

(c) COMMUNITIES JOINT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2022/23 AND SERVICE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2021/22

There was submitted a report by the Head of Business and Resources (22/119) presenting the Joint Service Business Management and Improvement Plan 2022/23 and Annual Performance Report 2021/22 for Communities. The report details progress against targets and improvement actions over the last year and sets out priority focus areas for the coming year to support delivery of the Council's strategic objectives and outcomes.

In response to a query from Councillor Shiers regarding measurement of footfall in rural towns in Perth and Kinross, B Renton advised that there was ongoing work in this regard, with the Council looking into a system that measured footfall via mobile phone signal.

In response to a question from Councillor Drysdale regarding visa applications and settlement of Ukrainian refugees, C Mailer advised that refugees coming to Perth and Kinross from Ukraine were settling well, and stated the importance of the multi-agency approach in this regard.

In response to a query from Councillor Stewart regarding medical adaptations for Council housing, C Mailer advised that adaptations varied in length of time to complete depending on the nature of the adaptation, and advised that more detailed figures could be brought forward to members at a future date.

In response to a query from Councillor Allan regarding the rollout of superfast broadband, A Seggie advised members that investment for this had come from both the Scottish Government and the Tay Cities Deal, and that the physical work had been completed.

Resolved:

The contents of Report 22/119, be noted.

(b) EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES JOINT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2022/23 AND SERVICE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2021/22

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (22/118) presenting the Joint Service Business Management and Improvement Plan 2022/23 and Annual Performance Report 2021/22 for Education and Children's Services. The report details progress against targets and improvement actions over the last year and sets out priority focus areas for the coming year to support delivery of the Council's strategic objectives and outcomes.

In response to a query from Councillor Robertson regarding the utilisation of Community Campus' as an educational resource for adults, S Devlin advised that, whilst there were already a number of adult learners across Perth and Kinross, expanding this offer across Perth and Kinross was an area that could be looked at.

In response to a query from Councillor Shiers, S Devlin advised members that work had been undertaken to support digitally disadvantaged families.

Resolved:

The contents of Report 22/118, be noted.

(a) CORPORATE AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES JOINT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2022/23 AND SERVICE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2021/22

There was submitted a report by the Chief Operating Officer (22/117) presenting the Joint Service Business Management and Improvement Plan 2022/23 and Annual Performance Report 2021/22 for Corporate and Democratic Services. The report details progress of Corporate and Democratic Services in supporting the Council's objectives and service delivery. The report also highlights the challenges and priority focus areas for the coming year.

In response to a query from Councillor Forbes regarding availability of staff, Pauline Johnstone advised that whilst there had been, similar to many employers, difficulty in filling some roles, work was being undertaken with services in this regard.

In response to a query from Councillor Stewart regarding targets around invoicing, A Taylor advised that this was an area which was regularly monitored, and internal targets were in place. Further, S MacKenzie added that whilst there was no statutory targets in place in the regard, there were advisory targets in place.

Resolved:

The contents of Report 22/117, be noted.

(d) GENERAL DISCUSSION ON ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORTS AND BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PLANS

Councillor Stewart led a general discussion on Annual Improvement Reports and Business Management and Improvement Plans.

Councillor Stewart stated that he felt an offline meeting would be useful to consider the format of Business Management and Improvement Plans (BMIPs), including consideration of the most appropriate time of the year for BMIPs to be brought before Committee. Councillor Stewart added that he felt the style of Key Performance Indicator's could be considered, in addition to clarity regarding what should be in a BMIP and what should be in the Annual Performance Report.

Councillor Robertson added that he would like consideration to be given as to why BMIPs are submitted to multiple Committees.

7. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2021/22

There was submitted a report (22/120) by the Head of Legal and Governance Services presenting, for scrutiny and review, the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year 2021/22, which provides assurance as to the effectiveness of the Council's governance framework and in particular the system of control.

Resolved:

The contents of Report 22/120, be noted.

8. SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE REVIEWS – CALL FOR TOPICS

Councillor Stewart led a discussion on Scrutiny and Performance Reviews – Call For Topics.

In starting the discussion, Councillor Stewart advised that, in addition to suggestions for topics for Scrutiny and Performance Reviews, discussion could be widened to include topics for future reports.

Councillor Shiers requested that additional support needs provision across schools be considered, and also the role of Local Action Partnerships.

Bailie Bailey requested that the status of funding for cycling and walking provision on Dunkeld Road, Perth, be considered.

Councillor Stewart requested that the Council's performance within the national planning performance framework be considered, in addition to the Business Gateway funding model.