

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
17 JUNE 2015

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Minute of meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held in the Gannochy Suite, Dewar's Centre, Glover Street, Perth on Wednesday 17 June 2015 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors A Stewart, B Vaughan, R Brock, D Cuthbert, D Doogan, A Munro and A Younger.

In Attendance: G Taylor, S Hendry, L Carson, I Innes and L Simpson (all Chief Executive's Service); L Cameron, C Johnston, M McKay, N Copland, C Colley, C Smith and J Mayglothling (all Housing and Community Care); B Renton (The Environment Service) ; M Cochlan, A May, P Davison and J Chiles (all Education and Children's Services).

Councillor A Stewart, Convener, Presiding

412. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES / SUBSTITUTES

The Convener welcomed all those present to the meeting.

413. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

414. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of the Scrutiny Committee of 22 April 2015 (Arts. 257-263) was submitted, approved as correct record and authorised for signature.

With reference to Article 262, and following a request from the Convener, it was agreed that the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) be requested to submit a report to the next meeting of the committee regarding invoicing arrangements for day care services within Community Care.

415. JOINT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PLANS AND ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORTS

(i) Education and Children's Services

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (15/208) presenting the Joint Business Management and Improvement Plan 2015/16 and Annual Performance Report 2014/15 for Education and Children's Services. It was noted that the report had been approved by the Lifelong Learning Committee on 27 May 2015.

In response to a question from Councillor Stewart regarding the performance indicators that show a reduction in attainment, A May responded that the recent introduction of Curriculum for Excellence had created a transition year in terms of reporting that had not produced "like for like" results.

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Councillor Cuthbert suggested that with reference to all of the Business Management and Improvement Plans, it would be useful to include a percentage to date figure where possible, rather than a note of the date when the statistic would be available. Officers agreed to look into the future use of raw data to assist with this.

In response to a query from Councillor Doogan on the impact of inflationary pressures on supplies and energy on overall cost per school pupil, P Davison confirmed that this had negligible impact. Councillor Doogan further commented on the impact of teacher absence, and B Renton confirmed that sickness absence figures could be added to future Business Management and Improvement Plans if required.

Regarding the general process of reporting, Councillor Vaughan commented on the need to include identified priorities by each service, as well as further benchmarking information with other local authorities. It was also suggested that further links need to be developed between work undertaken through the community planning outcome delivery groups and reports submitted to elected members through the Council and its committees.

Resolved:

Education and Children's Services Joint Business Management and Improvement Plan 2015/16 and Annual Performance Report 2014/15, as detailed in the Appendices to Report 15/208, be accepted.

(ii) Chief Executive's Service

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive (15/249) presenting the Joint Business Management and Improvement Plan 2015/16 and Annual Performance Report 2014/15 for the Chief Executive's Service.

It was noted that the report had been approved by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee earlier in the day.

Following a comment by Councillor Stewart on the percentage of elected members satisfied with ongoing development sessions, G Taylor confirmed that the service was looking at the timing, topics and methods for delivery of the sessions, including the possible use of on-line training and focus groups. Further consultation would take place with members.

Councillor Cuthbert questioned whether the targets for the completion of employee review and development within the service were realistic, however I Innes felt that these were achievable in practice.

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Resolved:

Chief Executive's Service Joint Business Management and Improvement Plan 2015/16 and Annual Performance Report 2014/15, as detailed in the Appendix to Report 15/249, be accepted.

(iii) The Environment Service

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (15/198) presenting the Joint Business Management and Improvement Plan 2015/16 and Annual Performance Report 2014/15 for the Environment Service.

It was noted that the report had been approved by the Community Safety Committee on 20 May 2015, and the Environment and Enterprise and Infrastructure Committees on 3 June 2015.

Councillor Doogan commented on the 26.6% response rate as part of the 2014 Household Waste and Recycling Public Satisfaction Survey and queried the results from the survey. B Renton confirmed that these results had been positive and would be presented to future meetings of the Environment and Scrutiny Committees.

In response to a concern raised by Councillor Doogan on the reduction in percentages of Scottish average monthly earnings and the importance of utilising land within the local authority area for employment, B Renton confirmed that this was a key priority for the Council and it's community planning partners.

Regarding the figure of 35 Council houses built in Perth and Kinross during 2014/15, Councillor Cuthbert commented that this figure was surprisingly low. L Cameron confirmed that she would check the accuracy of the figure presented.

Resolved:

The Environment Service's Joint Business Management and Improvement Plan 2015/16 and Annual Performance Report 2014/15, as detailed in the Appendix to Report 15/198, be accepted.

(iv) Housing and Community Care

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (15/206) presenting the Joint Business Management and Improvement Plan 2015/16 and Annual Performance Report 2014/15 for Housing and Community Care.

Resolved:

Housing and Community Care Joint Business Management and Improvement Plan 2015/16 and Annual Performance Report 2014/15, as detailed in the Appendix to Report 15/206, be accepted.

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416. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2014-2015

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal Services (15/260) explaining how Perth and Kinross Council complies with national standards for good corporate governance and meets the requirements of relevant legislation and current good practice. The report sought approval for the Annual Governance Statement 2014-2015 to be signed and published along with the Annual Financial Statement.

With reference to section 4.8 of the governance statement, Councillor Cuthbert suggested and it was agreed that the Scrutiny Committee should request sixth monthly reports regarding performance and risk.

Following a query by Councillor Cuthbert on the use of the term 'locality leadership models' in section 4.14 of the statement, it was agreed that this should be referred to F Robertson, Head of Cultural and Community Services for further explanation.

With reference to section 5.1 of the statement, and following a suggestion by Councillor Vaughan that work begin at an earlier stage on the process of developing the annual statement, I Innes and G Taylor confirmed that this would be considered as part of a review of effectiveness of the Council's corporate governance framework.

Resolved:

The Annual Governance Statement 2014-2015 be approved.

417. UPDATE ON FOURTH SCRUTINY REVIEW – MEMBER/OFFICER WORKING GROUPS

There was submitted a report by the Head of Democratic Services (15/259) updating on the progress made to date on the recommendations from the Fourth Scrutiny Review on Member Officer Groups (MOGs).

Councillor Cuthbert referred to section 2.1 (iv) of the report, and questioned that a MOG related to the implementation of welfare reform had not been created. Councillor Vaughan commented on the usefulness of various sessions and briefings for elected members on this area, as well as reports to the Audit Committee.

Following a suggestion by Councillor Cuthbert that further detail be provided to all members on the protocol for non-members seeking to contribute to MOG meetings, G Taylor agreed to provide this information.

It was agreed that an update would be provided to the Scrutiny Committee in September 2015 on the outstanding actions detailed in the report.

Resolved:

The contents of Report 15/259 be noted.

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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.

418. MINUTE OF MEETING OF SOCIAL WORK COMPLAINTS REVIEW COMMITTEE OF 14 APRIL 2015

There was submitted and noted the minute of meeting of the Social Work Complaints Review Committee of 14 April 2015.

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