

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL**Scrutiny Committee****21 September 2016****SEVENTH SCRUTINY REVIEW - "ROLE OF SCRUTINY IN A CHANGING WORLD"****Report by the Depute Chief Executive, Environment
(Sustainability, Strategic and Entrepreneurial Development)**

This report proposes that the topic for the Seventh Scrutiny Review be on the wider role of Elected Members in scrutinising Council Services, and 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.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Guide to Scrutiny at Perth and Kinross Council 2014 ([report 14/261](#)) sets out, amongst other things, the procedure for proposing and selecting a topic for the Scrutiny Committee to review. This involves the committee seeking proposals from all elected members and the Executive Officer Team prior to undertaking a process of scoring and rejection.
- 1.2 At the final meeting of the Scrutiny Review Group, while conducting the Sixth Scrutiny Review (Planning Enforcement), the Convenor and Elected Members expressed concern that there is insufficient time, prior to the Council Elections in May 2017, to conduct a Seventh Review following the standard procedure.
- 1.3 The Group however recognised that ensuring appropriate levels of scrutiny are applied across Council Services is of vital importance if we are to continue as a high performing Council.
- 1.4 This is particularly the case when considering the significant challenges which are currently faced in terms of: continuing financial pressures; rising demands for services; public service reform; and new statutory obligations relating to health and social care, and community engagement.
- 1.5 The roles and responsibilities of all elected members to scrutinise the services being delivered will continue to increase in importance given the 'Building Ambition' transformation programme, the introduction of new ways of working, and different models of service delivery such as the Integration Joint Board for Health and Social Care, and 'Arm's Length External Organisations' (ALEOs), for areas such as culture and sport.
- 1.6 The Scrutiny Review Group felt that the time available could be best used to conduct a review of the future role of scrutiny at Perth and Kinross Council in the widest sense. The Group also considered that this would provide the Scrutiny Committee with an opportunity to pass on lessons learned to the new Council in May 2017.

- 1.7 As Elected Members will be aware, John Walker, Depute Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer, is leading a review of the Council's decision-making structure, with the intention of submitting a discussion paper to the last meeting of the Council in advance of May 2017 elections, on options for the political decision-making structure, which would allow the Council to make recommendations to be considered by the new Council. Whilst there will be consultation with Elected Members and officers in taking forward that review, the Scrutiny Review Group also considered that their findings would contribute to the review.

2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1 The Guide to Scrutiny at Perth and Kinross Council 2014 sets out the scope of the Scrutiny Committee and the roles and responsibilities of those involved in the Scrutiny process.
- 2.2 Given the significant pressures the Council currently faces (para 1.4), and the changing way in which we are developing and delivering services (para 1.5), it is proposed that the Guide be reviewed to:
1. Highlight the wider role of Elected Members in applying appropriate scrutiny across all of the Council's Services and Committees.
 2. Reflect the lessons learned from the process of conducting the Scrutiny Reviews undertaken to date.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to agree to the scope of the 7th Scrutiny review as set out in section 2.2.

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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	None
Workforce	None
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	None
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	None
Strategic Environmental Assessment	None
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	None
Legal and Governance	None
Risk	None
Consultation	
Internal	Yes
External	None
Communication	
Communications Plan	None

1.1 Strategic implications

This report supports the delivery of the Strategic Objectives within Community Plan/ Single Outcome Agreement 2013-23 and Corporate Plan 2013-18.

1.2 Consultation

The Scrutiny Review Group, the Convenor of the Scrutiny Committee, the Head of Legal and Governance Services and the Head of Democratic Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Draft guide to Scrutiny at Perth and Kinross Council ([report 10/67](#))
- Guide to Scrutiny at Perth and Kinross Council 2014 ([report 14/261](#))

3. APPENDICES

None