

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held in the Council Chamber, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 12 September 2018 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors G Laing, S McCole, C Ahern, K Baird (substituting for Councillor H Coates) M Barnacle, D Doogan, D Illingworth, R McCall (substituting for Councillor C Purves), T McEwan, A Parrott and C Stewart.

In Attendance: K Reid, Chief Executive; S Devlin, Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (up to and including Art. 511); B Renton, Executive Director (Housing and Environment); R Hill, S Johnston, L Richards and N Rogerson (all Education and Children's Services up to and including Art. 510); C Mailer (up to and including Art. 511) and J Scott (both Housing and Environment); L Cameron, F Robertson (up to and including Art. 509), L Simpson, G Taylor, M Mahmood, C McCarthy (up to and including Art. 513) S Richards and D Williams (all Corporate and Democratic Services).

Apologies: Councillors H Coates and C Purves.

Councillor G Laing, Convener, Presiding.

506. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

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

507. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors C Ahern, K Baird and A Parrott all declared a non-financial interest in Art. 509(i).

508. MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OF 18 APRIL 2018

The minute of meeting of the Scrutiny Committee of 13 June 2018 (Arts. 330-336) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

509. UPDATE BY ARMS' LENGTH EXTERNAL ORGANISATION

(i) Culture Perth & Kinross.

J Smout, Chief Executive; M Kelly; and J Findlay, Culture Perth & Kinross, displayed a short video to members before providing a verbal update on online and mobile library services; a rise in museum attendances; and answering members' questions.

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
12 SEPTEMBER 2018

Members sought assurance on matters such as: the role of volunteers; visitor attendances at museums and libraries; and digital services in rural areas.

The Convener thanked the representatives of Culture Perth & Kinross for their attendance and they left the meeting at this point.

F ROBERTSON LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

510. EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2018-19

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (18/246) providing a summary of the key priorities for Education and Children's Services for the year ahead.

S Devlin, Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) highlighted to members that this Plan also included Criminal Justice Services.

Councillor Baird commented upon the youth representation on the Council's Lifelong Learning Committee, praising the role and approach of the two youth representatives on the Committee.

Resolved:

The contents of Report 18/246, be noted.

R HILL, S JOHNSTON, L RICHARDS AND N ROGERSON ALL LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

511. HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2018-19

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Environment) (18/253) presenting the first Housing and Environment Business Management and Improvement Plan for the period 2018-19.

In response to a question from Councillor Laing regarding the 100% rent collection target, C Maller (Housing and Environment) informed members that, whilst an ambitious target, the target was consistent with the national context and averages with regards to rent collection from both social housing landlords and local authority landlords.

In response to a query from Councillor McCall regarding the aim of reducing the percentage of empty retail units in Perth & Kinross, B Renton informed members that discussions with the retailers and Perth Traders Association were ongoing, in addition to the work of the Perth City Development Board, whilst also highlighting the importance of independent retailers in Perth & Kinross.

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
12 SEPTEMBER 2018

In response to a query from Councillor McCole regarding the number of days taken to complete approved medical adaptations, C Mailer informed members that the overall number of days did include the application process. C Mailer added that the reduced target, with regards to number of days, was due to this being regarded as an area for improvement.

Resolved:

The contents of Report 18/253, be noted.

S DEVLIN AND C MAILER LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT

512. CORPORATE AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2018-21

There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive (18/287) presenting the Business Management and Improvement Plan for Corporate and Democratic Services for the period 2018-21.

In response to a query from Councillor Illingworth regarding financial management and the use of the intelligent client model, B Renton informed members that all Services in the Council have benefitted from having a nominated financial controller, but that it was felt that the profile of this role needed to be raised.

Resolved:

The contents of Report 18/287, be noted.

513. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FROM BEST VALUE ASSURANCE REPORTS: EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL, WEST LoTHIAN COUNCIL, ORKNEY ISLANDS COUNCIL, CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL, FIFE COUNCIL AND EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

There was submitted a report by the Head of Strategic Commissioning and Organisational Development (18/289), examining the position of Perth & Kinross against six Best Value Assurance Reports and messages from Audit Scotland.

Councillor Parrott commented that he welcomed the pro-active approach of the report with regards to preparedness for routine inspection, and queried whether this approach could be replicated in other areas where there was routine inspection. K Reid, Chief Executive, responded by informing members that learning from Audit Scotland reports; the Local Area Network Scrutiny Panel and other inspections would always inform future inspection work for example the self-evaluation process being undertaken in relation to the forthcoming joint inspection of the Health and Social Care Partnership.

Resolved:

The contents of Report 18/289, be noted.

C MCCARTHY LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT

**514. SIXTH SCRUTINY REVIEW: PLANNING ENFORCEMENT – ANNUAL
PLANNING ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Environment) (18/290) providing an update on the implementation of recommendation 3 from the Scrutiny Review of Planning Enforcement, which marks the completion of this recommendation.

Resolved:

- (i) The Committee agreed that this report satisfied recommendation 3 of the Sixth Scrutiny Review: Planning Enforcement, and therefore concluded that review.
- (ii) To note that the first Annual Planning Enforcement Report covering 2017/18 will be presented to the Environment and Infrastructure Committee at its meeting on 7 November 2018 and that thereafter, for subsequent years, the Report will be presented at the first available committee following the publication of annual performance statistics by the Scottish Government.

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