

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
17 APRIL 2019

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held in the Council Chamber, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 17 April 2019 at 1.05pm.

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

In Attendance: Councillor S Donaldson; K McNamara, Depute Director (Housing and Environment); J Pepper, Depute Director (Education and Children's Services); A Seggie (Housing and Environment); R Hill, S Johnstone and J Chiles (both Education and Children's Services); J Clark, M Mahmood, L Potter, L Simpson, M Terava and D Williams (all Corporate and Democratic Services).

Apologies: Councillor H Coates.

Councillor G Laing, Convener, Presiding.

THE COMMITTEE AGREED TO HOLD A 30 MINUTE RECESS.

. **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

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

. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors C Ahern and A Parrott both declared a non-financial interest in Item 4(i).

Councillor G Laing declared a non-financial interest in Item 4(ii).

. **MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OF 28 NOVEMBER 2018**

The minute of meeting of the Scrutiny Committee of 6 February 2019 (Arts. 66 - 70) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

. **UPDATE BY ARMS-LENGTH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS**

(i) **Culture Perth and Kinross**

H Smout, Chief Executive, C Kinnoull, Chair, H Revill, Finance Officer and J Findlay QC, Board Member, Culture Perth and Kinross, gave an update on progress and answered members' questions. Members sought assurance on matters such as: Board and Committee structures; organisational development; key priorities for the coming

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year, expertise within the organisation and opportunities for shared service. The Convener thanked the representatives for their attendance and they left the meeting at this point.

(ii) Live Active Leisure Ltd.

Having declared a non-financial interest in this item, Councillor Laing remitted the chair to Councillor Parrott, Vice-Convener, who presided for the following item.

P Cromwell, Chief Executive and F Cameron, Deputy Chief Executive, Live Active Leisure Ltd., gave an update on progress and answered members' questions. Members sought assurance on matters such as: catering operations; leisure facilities and assistance for sports clubs, sustainability and outcomes. The Convener thanked the representatives for their attendance and they left the meeting at this point.

(iii) Horsecross Arts Ltd.

M Griffiths, Interim Chief Executive and P Winkles, Interim Head of Finance, Horsecross Arts Ltd, gave an update on progress and answered members' questions. Members sought assurance on matters such as budget and financial management, staffing, future programming and options to improve income generation; sustainability and options for sharing services. The Convener thanked the representatives for their attendance and they left the meeting at this point.

SUMMARY REPORT ON CARE INSPECTORATE AND EDUCATION SCOTLAND INSPECTIONS

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (19/119) providing an overview of the performance of Education and Children's Services inspected and reported over the past year by the Care Inspectorate and Education Scotland and setting out the Service's approach to implementing improvement actions arising out of inspection.

In response to a query from Councillor Doogan regarding inspection of Secondary Schools, R Hill informed members that there had been no Secondary School Inspections in Perth and Kinross since 2014, since the introduction of new quality indicators, 'How Good is Our School 4', and that a further inspection of Secondary Schools would be welcomed.

In response to a query from Councillor Doogan regarding performance compared to comparator local authorities, S Johnstone informed members that in terms of Quality Indicators, Perth and Kinross was bucking the national trend in terms of performance in Early Years and Primary Education, but stated that performance in numeracy remained an area for improvement.

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In response to a query from Councillor Stewart regarding the potential benefits of a comparison with other local authorities in the Tayside Region, J Pepper advised that this was an area which could be discussed within the Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative.

Councillor Parrott commented that he felt the comparatively low number of school inspections was a positive, praising the risk management of the authority and the standards set by the authority.

Resolved:

The contents of Report 19/119, be noted.

J PEPPER, R HILL, S JOHNSTONE AND J CHILES LEFT THE MEETING AT THE POINT.

COUNCILLORS JARVIS AND McCOLE LEFT THE MEETING DURING THE CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM.

. **BUSINESS GATEWAY**

K McNamara, Depute Director (Housing and Environment), delivered a verbal update on Business Gateway, updating members on the present situation regarding Business Gateway in Perth and Kinross. Following the Verbal Update, K McNamara answered questions from members on the present situation with Business Gateway in Perth and Kinross.

The Committee agreed that a Report on Business Gateway would be submitted to a future meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

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