

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held in the Committee Room, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 1 October 2014 at 2.00pm.

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

In Attendance: G Taylor and P Frazer (both Chief Executive's Service); B Atkinson and M Cochlan (both Education and Children's Services); J Mayglothling and A Taylor (both Housing and Community Care); and B Renton (The Environment Service).

Councillor A Stewart, Convener, Presiding.

639. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Councillor Stewart welcomed all present to the meeting and no apologies were noted.

640. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

641. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of the Scrutiny Committee of 11 June 2014 was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

642. MATTERS ARISING

(i) Housing and Community Care (Arts. 432 (i) refers)

The Committee noted that an update on re-shaping older people's care would be submitted to the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee on 3 December 2014.

(ii) Education and Children's Services (Arts. 432 (ii) refers)

In response to a question from Councillor Vaughan regarding pupil attainment in literacy and numeracy at primary level, B Atkinson referred to the briefing note, previously forwarded to Councillor Vaughan, covering these points. He added that a national debate was now taking place on how to manage these issues at primary level and he was confident that teachers in Perth and Kinross were taking a consistent approach in this regard.

Resolved:

Depute Director, (Education and Children's Services) to provide an update on pupil attainment at primary level to a future meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

(iii) Annual Governance Statement (Arts. 433 refers)

The Committee noted that reference had been made to the need to ensure that policies and strategies were current, and appropriate, in relation to the Council's corporate governance arrangements.

Resolved:

The Head of Legal Services to provide an update on the action that would be taken to ensure that existing policies and strategies remained relevant.

(iv) Council Complaints Report for April 2013 – March 2014 (Art. 434 refers)

B Atkinson reported that he would consult with the Head of Legal Services, regarding re-evaluation of the level of complaints in schools. The Committee also noted that an interim report on the results of a questionnaire to complainants about their experience of the complaints process had not been submitted to this meeting but that the action would be carried forward to the next meeting.

Resolved:

- (i) Depute Director (Education and Children's Services) to provide a re-evaluation of the level of complaints in schools to the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee on 3 December 2014.
- (ii) Head of Legal Services to provide an interim report on the results of a questionnaire to complainants about their experience of the complaints process to the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee on 3 December 2014.

**643. REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES AND
CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS - INSPECTION REPORTS BY NATIONAL
RECORDS OF SCOTLAND**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Democratic Services (Chief Executive Service) (14/416) commenting on the annual inspection reports from the National Records of Scotland on the provision of registration services in the Perth and Kinross local government area in 2013.

Resolved:

- (i) The content of report 14/416 be noted.

644. FOURTH SCRUTINY REVIEW FOLLOW UP REPORT (Art. 13/91 refers)

The Committee heard a presentation by the Head of Democratic Services on progress made with the 13 recommendations arising out of the Fourth Scrutiny Review of Member Officer Groups (MOGs) 2012/2013 (Art.13/91 refers) Perth and Kinross Council December 2013.

In response to a summary of the position from Councillor Stewart, Councillor Doogan responded that he did not think a welfare reform MOG was necessary at this time as officer duties were well defined under statute; any concerns could be addressed through the Housing and Health Committee or other existing forums. Councillor Stewart stated that he was content with this position and consultation on welfare reform would continue with elected members and Services as necessary.

Councillor Doogan referred to the recommendation relating to training for conveners of MOGs, and queried whether this should be compulsory. G Taylor responded that the Committee had agreed during the review that the recommendation should be that the training should be compulsory; however, elected members could not be compelled to attend. Councillor Stewart commented that the rationale for the recommendation was to ensure Conveners had the necessary management skills to ensure consistency in how MOGs were managed.

Resolved:

- (i) The Committee requested that a more comprehensive progress report be submitted to the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee on 3 December 2014.
- (ii) A copy of the presentation to be distributed to the Committee.

IT WAS AGREED THAT THE PUBLIC AND PRESS SHOULD BE EXCLUDED DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN ORDER TO AVOID THE DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION WHICH IS EXEMPT IN TERMS OF SCHEDULE 7A TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1973.

645. MINUTE OF MEETING OF SOCIAL WORK COMPLAINTS REVIEW COMMITTEE OF 1 AUGUST 2014 FOR APPROVAL

There was submitted and noted the minute of meeting of the Social Work Complaints Review Committee (CRC) of 1 August 2014.

