

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held in the Gannochy Suite, Dewar's Centre, Glover Street, Perth on Wednesday 10 February 2016 at 2.00pm.

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

In Attendance: B Duncan, J Moyes, G McShea, P Cromwell and F Cameron (all up to and including Art. 94) (all Live Active Leisure Ltd); B Renton (up to and including Art. 94) and C Jolly (both The Environment Service); S Devlin, F Robertson and J Chiles (all Education and Children's Services); A Taylor (Housing and Community Care); G Taylor, L Simpson and H Rheinallt (all Corporate and Democratic Services).

Councillor A Stewart, Convener, Presiding

90. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES / SUBSTITUTES

The Convener welcomed all those present to the meeting.

91. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

92. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of the Scrutiny Committee of 2 December 2015 (Arts. 774-785) was submitted, approved as correct record and authorised for signature.

93. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

94. UPDATE – LIVE ACTIVE LEISURE

The Committee heard a presentation by B Duncan, J Moyes and G McShea, Live Active Leisure Ltd. The presentation covered the following topics: (i) governance; (ii) turnover and profit; (iii) recent developments; (iv) benefits delivered to Perth and Kinross by Live Active Leisure Ltd; (v) the financial position; (vi) continuous improvement and future aims; (vii) how Live Active Leisure contributes to Perth and Kinross Council's local outcomes; (viii) current work being done; (ix) the focus on wellbeing; and (x) responsiveness to the needs of the local communities.

The Convener thanked B Duncan, J Moyes and G McShea for attending the meeting and delivering the presentation. In response to a query from the Convener regarding health and social care integration, G McShea provided assurance that Live Active Leisure Ltd is well-placed to deliver services as part of the future arrangements for health and social care integration.

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Councillor Doogan highlighted Live Active Blairgowrie and the North Inch Golf Course as areas for further development and partnership working. J Moyes acknowledged Councillor Doogan's comments and advised that he would be willing to explore these issues. He further responded that work was being done to enhance the offer in Blairgowrie. B Renton provided assurance that an outline business case for the refurbishment of Live Active Leisure Blairgowrie would be brought forward in due course.

In response to a query from Councillor Cuthbert regarding the Living Wage and the National Living Wage, F Cameron advised that Live Active Leisure Ltd is meeting the requirements for the National Living Wage, and that the position with regards to the Living Wage is being kept under review.

Councillor Cuthbert requested clarification as to the potential effect on Live Active Leisure Ltd if the Council halted school swimming provision. J Moyes responded that work is being done with Active Schools to find the best solution.

In response to a query from Councillor Vaughan regarding engagement with different groups, G McShea responded that Live Active Leisure Ltd works with its partners and relies on their knowledge and experience as local partners and services understand marginalised groups. Live Active's Leisure Ltd's wellbeing team also has good knowledge of equalities issues.

Councillor Younger requested clarification regarding economic benefits arising from the 120 unique events held in Live Active Leisure Ltd venues. B Duncan acknowledged Councillor Younger's comments and stated that it would be of value to measure these benefits. G McShea assured Councillor Younger that her comments would be taken into consideration. B Renton commented that consideration could be given to extending event funding to incorporate an element for assessing economic impact.

B DUNCAN, J MOYES, P CROMWELL, G MCSHEA AND F CAMERON LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

95. SCOTTISH PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM COMPLAINTS IN 2014/15

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal and Governance Services (16/53) providing information about investigation reports, decision letters, and recommendations published by the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO) during 2014/15 and also presenting summarised information about the complaints received and determined in total by the SPSO about the Council and all other Local Authorities from Financial Year 2014/15.

The Convener requested clarification regarding the number of cases closed by the Ombudsman after starting his initial investigation, and a breakdown of these cases by reason. L Simpson responded that insufficient information supplied by the complainant resulted in the largest number of closures, and confirmed that further

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information could be provided. She provided assurance to the Convener that the feedback from the Ombudsman is analysed and there are no worrying trends.

Councillor Cuthbert requested clarification regarding why some of the recommendations had been implemented after the date recommended by the Ombudsman, in particular referring to Recommendation 2 in Appendix 1. L Simpson agreed to investigate the reasons for this and provide further information.

Councillor Doogan highlighted the importance of implementing appropriate and proportionate actions in response to complaints.

Resolved:

- (i) The position regarding investigation reports and decision letters published about complaints against the Council be noted.
- (ii) It be noted that all recommendations made by the Ombudsman in connection with complaints against the Council, as detailed in Appendix 2 to Report 16/53, have been accepted by Council Officers and appropriate action has been taken in all other cases.
- (iii) The comparative information about complaints received by the Ombudsman in 2014/15, as detailed in section 3 of Report 16/53, be noted.

96. STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Director (Education and Children's Services) (16/18) reflecting on the activities of Education and Children's Services over the past year and presenting an overview of the Services' key strengths and areas for development and/or improvement.

S Devlin invited members of the Committee to attend a meeting with members of the Lifelong Learning Committee to discuss information on attainment in more depth. A date would be advised in due course.

In response to a query from the Convener regarding the effect of the so-called toxic trio on children's wellbeing, S Devlin acknowledged the Convener's concerns, and advised that young people affected by these issues would be given targeted support, and that the Multi Agency Screening Group is used to identify them earlier.

Councillor Doogan requested clarification regarding reasons for different levels of attainment in different schools. S Devlin responded that there are many reasons for, and elements of, difference in attainment levels. She further advised that visits are undertaken to the secondary schools which look at attainment levels in more depth at departmental level, and agreed to share that information with members of the Committee.

Councillor Vaughan referred to positive destinations for school leavers and highlighted that Perth and Kinross Council is below the national average in this area. S Devlin acknowledged Councillor Vaughan's concerns, and commented that the category of 'unemployed and not seeking employment or training' includes pregnancy, ill health, and travel.

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In response to a query from Councillor Vaughan regarding information provided in schools regarding appropriate destinations following schools, S Devlin advised that Education Scotland had recently undertaken reviews of advice given in schools, and that when the results were known she would provide that information.

Councillor Cuthbert requested a more detailed breakdown of attainment for First Level, Second Level and Third Level. J Chiles advised that a pilot is currently being undertaken in primary schools, part of which is to predict where pupils will be at the next level, in order that support can be targeted where it is needed.

Councillor Cuthbert requested information on what level pupils have attained when they leave school. J Chiles confirmed that this information could be provided.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of the Standards and Quality Report 2014/15, attached as Appendix 1 to Report 16/18, be noted.
- (ii) The Director (Education and Children's Services) be requested to invite the Principal of the University of the Highlands and Islands to a future meeting of the Scrutiny Committee to provide information on the range, type, breadth and depth of courses offered by Perth College UHI.

97. RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS BY COUNCIL, COMMITTEE AND SUB-COMMITTEES

There was submitted a report by the Head of Democratic Services (16/54) on responsibility for following up, implementing and reporting back on actions agreed by the Council, Committees and Sub-Committees.

Resolved:

The process for following up, implementing and reporting back on actions agreed by the Council, Committees and Sub-Committees, as detailed in Report 16/54, be noted.

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