

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held virtually via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday 9 December 2020 at 9.30am.

Present: Councillors S McCole, A Parrott, M Barnacle, D Illingworth, C Ahern, A Jarvis, C Reid, C Purves, I Massie (substituting for Councillor G Laing), T McEwan, F Sarwar, C Stewart and R McCall (substituting for Councillor H Coates).

In Attendance: B Renton, Executive Director (Housing and Environment); S Devlin, Executive Director (Education and Children's Services); G Patterson, Director (Health and Social Care); K Donaldson, Interim Chief Operating Officer; J Pepper (Depute Director, Education and Children's Services); F Cameron, J Chiles, P Davidson, R Drummond, G Doogan, F MacKay, D Macluskey, B Martin-Scott and S Johnstone (all Education and Children's Services); D Littlejohn and C Mailer (both Housing and Environment); C Hendry (Health and Social Care Partnership); L Simpson, L Dott, C Flynn, G Fogg, C Guild, K Johnston, F Robertson, D Williams, K Molley, M Pasternak, C Wright, A McMeekin and L McGuigan (all Corporate and Democratic Services).

Apologies: Councillors G Laing and H Coates.

Councillor S McCole, Convener, Presiding.

The Vice-Convener led discussion on items 5 and 6.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

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

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor T McEwen declared a non-financial interest in Item 4(i).

3. MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OF 9 SEPTEMBER 2020

The minute of meeting of the Scrutiny Committee of 9 September 2020 be agreed, subject to the following amendment (in italics) to Item 9.

“Prior to consideration of this Report, the Convener provided members with an update regarding the agreed Scrutiny Review of Abernaye Primary School. The Convener advised that this process was due to move forward and that meetings had taken place with a number of stakeholders regarding the agreed Scrutiny Review, with a view to developing a draft scope. The Convener confirmed that it was up to members of the Scrutiny Committee to agree the final scope, process and timetable for this review. The review would commence as soon as possible, with the subsequent report being presented to the next available Scrutiny Committee following completion. The Convener further advised members that the submitted

report (20/161) was before the Scrutiny Committee at the request of the Lifelong Learning Committee.”

4. UPDATE BY ARMS LENGTH EXTERNAL ORGANISATION

(i) Live Active Leisure Ltd

There was delivered an update by Live Active Leisure Ltd. Mike Robinson, Chair, Fiona Cameron, Deputy Chief Executive, and Andrew Brown, Head of Contracts and Compliance, Live Active Leisure Ltd., were all in attendance, and updated members on a number of matters including school and community sports support throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic; online response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and staffing during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Members sought assurance on matters such as funding and financial matters; links within the community and national organisations; and future planning for any further restrictions.

The Convener thanked the representatives for their attendance, and they left the meeting at this point.

5. ATTAINMENT AND PUPIL EQUITY FUNDING UPDATE 2020

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children’s Services (20/240) (1) providing an update on progress made in Perth and Kinross to raise attainment and close the poverty-related attainment gap, (2) outlining the range of measures implemented to improve performance and monitor progress of improvements, including the use of Pupil Equity Funding to support learners.

In response to a query from Councillor Massie regarding the top 20% of looked after children not following the wider upward trend in terms of literacy and numeracy, F MacKay advised that a new team had been established in this regard and work was also ongoing with Third Sector organisations in this regard.

In response to a query from Councillor Ahern regarding children with additional support needs, S Johnstone advised that these children were included in the report.

Resolved:

The contents of Report 20/240 be noted.

THERE FOLLOWED A TEN MINUTE RECESS

6. PERTH AND KINROSS CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT 2019/2020

There was submitted a report by the Chief Social Work Officer (20/241) (1) providing an overview of the key activities and work of the CPC to protect children

and young people from harm, abuse and exploitation, (2) identifying achievements, key strengths, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and areas for further improvement, (3) setting out the CPC's programme of improvement work for 2020 and beyond.

Resolved:

- (i) Wide range of work being carried out by Perth and Kinross Council and partners through the Child Protection Committee, to provide high quality services to protect children and young people, in particular the high level commitment to continuous improvement through self-evaluation be noted.
- (ii) The contents of this report and the Perth and Kinross Child Protection Committee Standards and Quality Report 2019/2020 (Appendix 1) and the contents of the Perth and Kinross CPC Improvement Plan 2018 – 2020 (Final Update) at 31 July 2020 (Appendix 2) be endorsed.

7. PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2019/20

There was submitted a report by Chief Executive (20/242) providing an overview of how the Council has performed in 2019/20 against the strategic objectives for Perth and Kinross as set out within the Council's Corporate Plan 2018-2022.

In response to a query from Councillor Barnacle, D Littlejohn advised members that many of the indicators regarding servicing of employment land were in the hands of the Public Sector, and that increased availability could take a number of years.

Resolved:

The contents of Report 20/242 be noted.

8. SCRUTINY REVIEW

The Convener provided a brief update on the two requested Scrutiny Reviews, with regards to Abernyte School and Governance arrangements for Local Action Partnerships and Community Partnerships during lockdown. The Convener advised that this was being treated as a matter of urgency, and that since the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee meetings had been ongoing with Officers of the Council.

In response to a query from Councillor Stewart, Councillor McCole advised that the sub-groups dealing with these Scrutiny Reviews would meet in private, with findings brought forward to meetings held in public.