

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held in the Council Chamber, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 13 September 2017 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors G Laing, H Anderson, K Baird (substituting for Councillor A Jarvis) H Coates, D Doogan, E Drysdale (substituting for Councillor S McCole), D Illingworth, T McEwan, A Parrott, C Purves, and C Stewart.

In Attendance: N Brian and B Renton (The Environment Service); J Chiles, R Hill and S Johnstone (Education and Children's Services); C Hendry (Perth and Kinross Health and Social Care Partnership); K McNamara, L Simpson, G Taylor and D Williams (all Corporate and Democratic Services); and L Cameron and J Mayglothing (both Housing and Community Safety).

Apologies: Councillors A Jarvis, S McCole and C Ahern.

Councillor G Laing, Convener, Presiding.

495. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

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

496. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

497. MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OF 19 APRIL 2017

The minute of meeting of the Scrutiny Committee of 19 April 2017 (Arts. 229-238) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

498. JOINT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT & IMPROVEMENT PLANS 2017-18 AND ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORTS 2016-17

The Committee unanimously agreed to vary the order of business and consider Appendix 1B and Appendix 1C to Report 17/292 at this point in the meeting.

In response to a query from Councillor Anderson regarding whether there was a strategy in place for autism support, L Cameron advised that the Autism Action Plan and Strategy Update had been approved at a meeting of the Housing and Communities Committee on 31 May 2017.

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Resolved:

The Joint Business Management & Improvement Plans 2017-18 and Annual Performance Reports 2016-17 as detailed in Appendices 1B and 1C to Report 17/292 be noted.

499. SIXTH SCRUTINY REVIEW – PLANNING ENFORCEMENT – UPDATE REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive & Chief Operating Officer (17.289) providing an update on the implementation of recommendations from the Scrutiny Review of Planning Enforcement.

Councillor Stewart raised a question regarding the annual report of the Planning Enforcement Team being submitted to the quasi-judicial Development Management Committee as opposed to the service-based Environment, Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee. N Brian informed Councillor Stewart that it was felt that Development Management Committee would be the most appropriate as it would bring a higher level of scrutiny upon conditions and have added relevance with regards to delegated powers. B Renton added, for clarity, that a wider performance report is submitted to the Environment, Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee.

In response to a query from Councillor Coates regarding the number of planning enforcement cases in the last twelve months which had resulted in enforcement action, N Brian advised that, this was the situation with the minority of cases but that he could provide exact figures to the committee.

Resolved:

The work undertaken to implement the recommendations from the Sixth Scrutiny Review on planning enforcement be noted.

N BRIAN LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT

500. LOCAL GOVERNMENT BENCHMARKING FRAMEWORK 2015/16

There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive & Chief Operating Officer (17/290) presenting a summary of Perth & Kinross Council's performance during 2015/16 against the Local Government Benchmarking Framework indicators. It was noted that the report had been approved by Council on 28 June 2017.

In response to a question from Councillor Drysdale regarding the increased time to complete non-emergency repairs to Council properties, L Cameron stated that there had been improvement from an average of 13 day to 7.3 days.

In response to a request from Councillor Drysdale regarding the narrative nature of the reports, K McNamara stated that he would be happy to present future reports of this nature to the Scrutiny Committee in a tabular format.

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Resolved:

- (i) The Local Government Benchmarking Framework results for 2015/16 as detailed in Report 17/290 be noted.
- (ii) It be noted further that the Local Government Benchmarking Framework results will be used to inform the development of Service Business Management and Improvement Plans, the Council's Transformation Programme, the Council's wider performance management and planning framework, and budget preparations.

501. THE COUNCIL'S BUSINESS PLAN – ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive & Chief Operating Officer (17/291) providing an update on year one actions of the Council's Business Plan. It was noted that the report had been approved by the Council on 28 June 2017.

In response to a query from the Convener regarding the embedding of Community Planning local action partnerships across five localities which focus on tackling stubborn inequalities, K McNamara informed members that a number of participatory budget events had taken place and that action partnerships had been working throughout the summer to develop action plans.

In response to queries raised by a number of members, L Cameron commented that there had been progress with the action partnerships over the previous year, and added that there were aims in place to see further improvement over the next year.

Resolved:

The update to year one of the development plan of the Council's Business Plan be noted.

L CAMERON AND C HENDRY LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT

J MAYGLOTHLING ENTERED THE MEETING AT THIS POINT

502. JOINT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT & IMPROVEMENT PLANS 2017-18 AND ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORTS 2016-17

There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive & Chief Operating Officer (17/292) presenting the Joint Service Business Management and Improvement Plans 2017-18 and the Annual Performance Reports 2016-17 for Council Services. It was noted that the report had been approved by Council on 28 June 2017.

With regards to Appendix 1A to Report 17/292, R Hill informed members that the Raising Attainment report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Lifelong Learning Committee. S Johnston added that the improvement in Primary School literature attainment would be detailed in that report. In response to a query from the Convener, S Johnston advised that there had been significant moves forward with

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regards to the use of data and engagement with pupils and parents in the last five years.

In response to a query from Councillor Baird regarding the Men in Childcare development, S Johnston confirmed that all those who had taken part in the development had moved into childcare. S Johnston added that a workforce plan was in place and that there were plans in place to make the childcare sector an attractive employment opportunity for male school leavers.

With regards to Appendix 1D to Report 17/292, and in response to queries from Councillor Doogan and Councillor Coates, B Renton informed members that the Council's Energy Team were exploring numerous options at present with regards to energy supplies to the forthcoming new school at Bertha Park, Perth.

Resolved:

The Joint Business Management and Improvement Plans 2017-18 and Annual Performance Reports 2016-17, as detailed in Appendices 1A & 1D to Report 17/292 be noted.

J CHILES, R HILL AND S JOHNSTON LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT

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

503. MINUTE OF MEETING OF SOCIAL WORK COMPLAINTS REVIEW COMMITTEE OF 19 MAY 2017

There was submitted and noted the minute of meeting of the Social Work Complaints Review Committee of 19 May 2017.

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