

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held in the Committee Room, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 16 September 2009 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors K Baird, J Law, I Campbell, A Gaunt, W Lumsden, D Scott and B Vaughan.

In Attendance: G Taylor, F Mackay and M Kay (all Chief Executive's); G Boland (Education and Children's Services); B Renton, W Young (until Art. 477) and L A Cassidy (until Art. 477) (all the Environment Service); J Walker (Housing and Community Care); J Symon (Corporate Services).

Also Attending: Councillor Jack.

Apologies for Absence: Mr D Stewart and Mr I Jackson.

Councillor Baird, Convener, Presiding.

475. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

476. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(i) Scrutiny Committee

The Minute of Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee of 10 June 2009 (Arts. 317 – 321) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

(ii) Audit Sub-Committee of 20 May 2009

The Minute of Meeting of the Audit Sub-Committee of 20 May 2009 was submitted and noted. (*Appendix I*)

477. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REVIEW OF GROUNDS MAINTENANCE (Art. 677/08)

There was submitted a report by the Improvement and Innovation Manager (09/437) outlining the findings of the review of grounds maintenance undertaken by the Scrutiny Committee based on the scope approved by the Committee on 3 December 2008.

The Convener made reference to the valuable contribution made by Bloom Committees and expressed the Committee's appreciation of the support received from all staff during the review.

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
16 September 2009

Resolved:

- (i) The terms of Report 09/437 including the findings of the review of grounds maintenance contained within section 4, be approved.
- (ii) The Head of Democratic Services be instructed to refer this report to the Environment and Housing and Health Committees of the Council for noting and action where appropriate in accordance with Section 5 of the report.
- (iii) A draft scrutiny handbook be prepared for the next Scrutiny Committee in December 2009.
- (iv) A review of the process used and the lessons learned during this review, supported by the relevant officers from the Chief Executive's Service and The Environment Service be carried out prior to the commencement of the next review.
- (v) A report be submitted to the Improving Local Neighbourhoods Member/Officer and Tenants' and Residents' Federation Working Group to consider points raised in relation to maintenance of areas of mixed tenure with any recommendations for action to be referred back to the Environment and Housing and Health Committees as appropriate.

COUNCILLOR A JACK, L A CASSIDY AND W YOUNG LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

478. ANNUAL REVIEW OF SERVICE RISKS AND RISK MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY

There was submitted a report by the Improvement and Innovation Manager (09/438) detailing progress made in embedding Risk Management across the Council in 2008/2009 and Risk Management Priorities for 2009/2010.

Members expressed concern that the report referred to progress but did not provide sufficient detail to enable that progress to be examined fully.

Resolved:

- (i) The annual review of Service risks and progress made in embedding risk during 2008/2009 as submitted in complying with the Local Code of Corporate Governance be noted.
- (ii) The Risk Management priorities for 2009/10 as detailed in Report 09/438 be approved.
- (iii) A further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Scrutiny Committee providing information on the risk management process and structure and how risks were managed within services.

479. REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS – INSPECTION REPORTS BY REGISTRAR GENERAL FOR SCOTLAND

There was submitted a report by Head of Democratic Services (09/439) commenting on the annual inspection reports from the Registrar General for Scotland on the provision of registration services in the Perth and Kinross local government area in 2008.

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
16 September 2009

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 09/439 with regard to the annual inspection reports by the Registrar General for Scotland for 2008 on the provision of registration services in the Perth and Kinross local government area, be noted.
- (ii) It be noted that the Head of Democratic Services was putting in place a Service Level Agreement with the agency provider in Coupar Angus.

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