

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
3 December 2008

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held in the Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 3 December 2008 at 2.00pm.

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

In Attendance: B Malone (Chief Executive); C Carlin, G Taylor, B Renton, M Kay and J Dickson (all Chief Executive's); G Stevenson, Executive Director (Corporate Services); R Thomson and E Crighton (all Corporate Services); D Roberts, Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) and L Cameron (Housing and Community Care); M Walker, Depute Director (Education and Children's Services) and C Webb (Education and Children's Services); J Walker and B Clough (both the Environment Service); Councillors G McDonald, I Young, B Jarvis, P Paul and E Scott and L Marshall and G Coull (all Moray Council).

Apology for Absence: Mrs H Bridge

Councillor Baird, Convener, Presiding.

The Convener welcomed members and officers of Moray Council who, as part of their visit to Perth and Kinross Council, were attending the meeting as observers.

668. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

669. MINUTES

(i) Minute of Meeting of Scrutiny Committee of 17 September 2008

The Minute of Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee of 17 September 2008 (Arts. 505-508) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

(ii) Audit Sub Committee of 28 May 2008

The Minute of Meeting of the Audit Sub-Committee of 28 May 2008 was submitted and noted. (*Appendix I*)

COUNCILLOR LUMSDEN AND MR I JACKSON ENTERED THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

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670. ATTAINMENT IN PERTH AND KINROSS SCHOOLS 2008 (Art. 598)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (08/542) (1) presenting an analysis of pupil attainment in primary schools and S2 in secondary schools; (2) highlighting the performance of candidates presented by Perth and Kinross schools in the Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA) 2008 diet examinations, and (3) outlining a number of steps being taken by the authority to help raise attainment in schools.

The Depute Director (Education and Children's Services) and the Head of Education Services were present to answer members' questions in relation to a number of issues.

Resolved:

- (i) It be noted that the report on Attainment in Perth and Kinross Schools 2008 had been submitted to and endorsed by the Lifelong Learning Committee on 29 October 2008.
- (ii) The proposals designed to raise levels of attainment and achievement further, as set out in Report 08/542, be noted.

671. EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES SIX MONTHLY PERFORMANCE SUMMARY (Art. 608)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (08/552) reviewing the performance of Education and Children's Services against the Business Management and Improvement Plan 2008-2011 for the period 1 April 2008 to 30 September 2008.

The Depute Director (Education and Children's Services) was present to answer members' questions in relation to a number of issues.

Resolved:

- (i) It be noted that the Education and Children's Services Six Monthly Performance Report had been submitted to and approved by the Lifelong Learning Committee on 29 October 2008.
- (ii) The Education and Children's Services Six Monthly summary of performance against the Business Management and Improvement Plan for the period 1 April to 30 September 2008, as detailed in the Appendix to Report 08/522, be noted.

D STEWART, I JACKSON AND C WEBB LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

672. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S SIX MONTHLY PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive (08/635) reviewing the performance of the Chief Executive's Service against the Business Management and Improvement Plan 2008-2011 for the period 1 April 2008 to 30 September 2008.

The Chief Executive and representatives of the Chief Executive's Service were present to answer members' questions on a number of issues.

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Resolved:

- (i) It be noted that the Chief Executive's Six Monthly Performance Summary had been submitted to and approved by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 3 December 2008.
- (ii) The Chief Executive's Six Monthly summary of performance against the Business Management and Improvement Plan for the period 1 April to 30 September 2008, as detailed in the Appendix to Report 08/635, be noted.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

B RENTON LEFT AND REJOINED THE MEETING DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM.

673. CORPORATE SERVICES SIX MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (08/636) reviewing the performance of Corporate Services against the Business Management and Improvement Plan 2008-2011 for the period from 1 April 2008 to 30 September 2008.

The Executive Director (Corporate Services) and representatives of Corporate Services were present to answer members' questions in relation to a number of issues.

Resolved:

- (i) It be noted that the Corporate Services Six Monthly Performance Report had been submitted to and approved by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 3 December 2008.
- (ii) The Corporate Services Six Monthly update on performance against the Business Management and Improvement Plan for the period 1 April to 30 September 2008, as detailed in the Appendix to Report 08/636, be noted.

E CRIGHTON AND R THOMSON LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

**674. THE ENVIRONMENT SERVICE SIX MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT
APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2008 (Art. 615)**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (08/566) reviewing service performance of the Environment Service against the Business Management and Improvement Plan 2008-2011 for the period 1 April to 30 September 2008.

The Head of Operations and Support Services and representatives of the Environment Service were present to answer members' questions in relation to a number of issues.

Resolved:

- (i) It be noted that the Environment Service Six Monthly Performance Report had been submitted to and approved by the Enterprise and Infrastructure

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Committee and the Environment Committee on 12 November 2008 and the Community Safety Committee on 26 November 2008.

- (ii) The Environment Service Six Monthly update on performance against the Business Management and Improvement Plan for the period 1 April to 30 September 2008, as detailed in the Appendix to Report 08/566, be noted.

675. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY CARE SIX MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT (Art. 589)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (08/555) summarising the six monthly performance of Housing and Community Care from 1 April to 30 September 2008 against the service objectives and targets for 2008/09.

The Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) and the Head of Strategy and Support were present to answer members' questions in relation to a number of issues.

Resolved:

- (i) It be noted that the Housing and Community Care Six Monthly Performance Report had been submitted to and approved by the Housing and Health Committee on 29 October 2008.
- (ii) The Housing and Community Care Six Monthly update on performance against the Business Management and Improvement Plan for the period 1 April to 30 September 2008, as detailed in the Appendix to Report 08/555, be noted.

J WALKER LEFT AND REJOINED THE MEETING DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM

676. COMMUNITY CARE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICE COMPLAINTS

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (08/560) (1) summarising the number and nature of complaints received about community care services between April 2007-March 2008; (2) detailing the number of informal complaints and compliments received and the way complaints and comments from service users are used to improve services.

Resolved:

The contents of Report 08/560 be noted.

G STEVENSON, D ROBERTS, L CAMERON, M KAY AND COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS FROM MORAY COUNCIL (OTHER THAN COUNCILLOR I YOUNG) LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

677. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REVIEW OF GROUNDS MAINTENANCE (Art. 508)

There was submitted a report by the Head of Change and Improvement (08/642) outlining the scope for the review to be undertaken by the Scrutiny

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Committee on implementing grounds maintenance policy, which the Committee agreed on 17 September 2008 would be one of the areas for review.

J Walker, the Head of Operations and Support Services, and B Clough, Community Greenspace Manager gave an illustrated presentation on the Community Greenspace and Grounds Maintenance operations; the long term grounds maintenance strategy for Perth and Kinross; the key operations performed by the Service and the scale of the grounds maintenance operations undertaken; quality management and work scheduling; the resources required to perform the operations and the variety of challenges the Service faces.

Resolved:

- (i) The content of Report 08/642, and the terms of reference outlined in Appendix 1 to Report 08/642, be approved.
- (ii) A final report and findings from the review of grounds maintenance be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee in June 2009.
- (iii) A draft scrutiny handbook to support the work of the Committee be prepared and the submitted to Scrutiny Committee in February 2009.

678. VALEDICTORY

The Convener referred to the retiral of Jean Dickson at the end of December 2008. On behalf of the Committee she thanked her for her support and wished her well for the future.

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