

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
9 December 2010

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held in the Committee Room, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Thursday 9 December 2010 at 2.00pm (rescheduled from Wednesday 1 December 2010).

Present: Councillors K Baird, W Lumsden, I Campbell, W Wilson (substituting for Councillor A Gaunt (from Item 6 onwards)), A Wylie, B Vaughan and Mr D Stewart.

In Attendance: M Walker, Depute Director (Education and Children's Services); B Atkinson, S Devlin and J Gilchrist (all until Item 5(ii)) (all Education and Children's Services); G Taylor, T Yule, I Innes, F Mackay, D Henderson, S Hendry and L Dott (all Chief Executive's Service); L Cameron, J Newton, S Rankin and A Harrow (from Item 5(i) onwards) (all Housing and Community Care); B Renton and J Dixon (until Item 7) (both the Environment Service).

Apologies for Absence: Councillors A Gaunt and D Scott, and Mr I Jackson.

Councillor Baird, Convener, Presiding

660. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

661. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(i) Scrutiny Committee

The Minute of Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee of 15 September 2010 (Arts 522 – 528) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

(ii) Audit Sub-Committee

The Minute of Meeting of the Audit Sub-Committee of 9 June 2010 was submitted and noted. (**Appendix I**)

662. SIX MONTHLY SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT PERFORMANCE EXCEPTION REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive (10/605) reviewing the performance of the Perth and Kinross Community Planning Partnership against the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) 2009-11 for the period 1 April 2010 to 30 September 2010. Report 10/605 had been accepted by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee earlier in the day.

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In response to members' questions, B Renton agreed to consult further with colleagues in Economic Development and provide further information to Councillor Lumsden on the figures and trends relating to the number of new business bank accounts. F Mackay also agreed to provide further information to Councillor Campbell on the previous Viewfinder figures that contributed to the performance indicator on residents' safety within their community.

Resolved:

The Six Monthly SOA Performance Exception Report 1 April 2010 to 30 September 2010, as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report 10/605, be accepted.

663. ATTAINMENT IN PERTH AND KINROSS SCHOOLS 2010

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (10/548) which presented a summary analysis of pupil attainment in 2009/10, specifically related to 5-14 attainment, and of the performance of pupils presented by Perth and Kinross schools for the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) examinations. The report also outlined the improvement actions that were being taken forward as part of the Council's strategy to raise further levels of attainment and achievement for learners across Perth and Kinross. The report had been accepted by the Lifelong Learning Committee on 3 November 2010, where the proposals set out in Section 8 of the report designed to raise further levels of attainment and achievement had been endorsed.

Resolved:

The contents of Report 10/548 be accepted.

664. SIX MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORTS

(i) Education and Children's Services

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (10/547) reviewing the performance of Education and Children's Services against the action and improvement plan targets set out in the Service's Business Management and Improvement Plan for the period 1 April 2010 to 30 September 2010. The report had been accepted by the Lifelong Learning Committee on 3 November 2010.

In response to a question from Councillor Vaughan, B Atkinson agreed to further examine the effectiveness of the format of the current performance indicator relating to child protection.

Resolved:

The Education and Children's Services Six Monthly Performance Report for the period 1 April 2010 to 30 September 2010, as detailed in the Appendix to Report 10/547, be accepted.

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(ii) Chief Executive's Service

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive (10/604) reviewing the performance of the Chief Executive's Service against the action and improvement plan targets set out in the Service's Business Management and Improvement Plan for the period 1 April 2010 to 30 September 2010. The report had been accepted by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 9 December 2010.

In response to a question from Councillor Campbell, both L Cameron and T Yule agreed to seek clarification from the Head of Finance on the figures relating to the payment of invoices within credit terms for both Housing and Community Care and Education and Children's Services

Resolved:

The Chief Executive's Service Six Monthly Performance Report for the period 1 April 2010 to 30 September 2010, as detailed in the Appendix to Report 10/604, be accepted.

(iii) The Environment Service

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (10/590) reviewing the performance of The Environment Service against the Service's Business Management and Improvement Plan for the period 1 April 2010 to 30 September 2010. The report had been accepted by both the Environment and Enterprise and Infrastructure Committees on 24 November 2010, and would be considered by the Community Safety Committee on 5 January 2011.

Resolved:

The Environment Service Six Monthly Performance Report for the period 1 April 2010 to 30 September 2010, as detailed in the Appendix to Report 10/590, be accepted.

(iv) Housing and Community Care

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (10/545) reviewing the performance of Housing and Community Care against the Service's Business Management and Improvement Plan for the period 1 April 2010 to 30 September 2010. The report had been accepted by the Community Safety Committee on 27 October 2010 and the Housing and Health Committee on 3 November 2010.

Resolved:

The Housing and Community Care Six Monthly Performance Report for the period 1 April 2010 to 30 September 2010, as detailed in the Appendix to Report 10/545, be accepted.

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665. FOOD STANDARDS AGENCY AUDIT OF THE FOOD SAFETY SERVICE

There was submitted a report by the Depute Director (Environment) (10/613) summarising the results of the Food Standards Agency's audit of the Council's Food Law Enforcement Service in August 2010. The report had been noted by the Community Safety Committee on 27 October 2010.

Jim Dixon, Food/Health Safety Manager, The Environment Service, was in attendance and answered members' questions.

Resolved:

- (i) The terms of Report 10/613 be noted;
- (ii) The outcomes of the audit by the Food Standards Agency and the areas for improvement be noted.

666. REPORT ON CARE COMMISSION INSPECTIONS

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (10/555) advising the Committee of the key findings of seventeen Care Commission Inspections carried out across fifteen establishments between March 2009 and July 2010. The report had been noted by the Housing and Health Committee on 3 November 2010.

Resolved:

- (i) The terms of Report 10/555 be noted; and
- (ii) The findings of the inspections by the Care Commission and the proposed actions be noted.

667. SOCIAL WORK INSPECTION AGENCY – REPORTS ON PRISON BASED SOCIAL WORK SERVICE – HMP PERTH – HMP OPEN ESTATE

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (10/543) outlining the results of the Social Work Inspection Agency's reports on prison based social work services at HMP Perth and HMP Open Estate. The report had been noted at the meeting of the Community Safety Committee on 27 October 2010.

Resolved:

- (i) The terms of Report 10/543 be noted;
- (ii) The findings of the reports by the Social Work Inspection Agency be noted;
- (iii) A further report be submitted to both the Community Safety Committee and Scrutiny Committee in due course outlining an action plan to respond to the issues identified in the report.

668. SHARED PROCUREMENT SERVICE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2009/10

There was submitted a report by the Head of Shared Procurement Service (10/612) presenting the Annual Performance Report 2009-2010 for the Shared

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Procurement Service. The report had been approved by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 15 September 2010.

Resolved:

The contents of Report 10/612 be noted.

669. OVERVIEW OF SERVICE RISKS AND RISK MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY 2010/11

There was submitted a report by the Head of Business Transformation and Improvement (10/610) summarising the processes and activities undertaken by Council Services to manage service and project/programme risks in 2010/11.

Resolved:

- (i) The systems in place to manage service risks in 2010/11, as detailed in Report 10/610, be noted.
- (ii) The projects where risk is currently being monitored by the Corporate Resources Group, as detailed in Report 10/610, be noted.
- (iii) The planned developments to enhance risk management during 2010/11 and 2011/12, as detailed in Report 10/610, be noted.

670. SCOTTISH PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN REPORTS

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal Services (10/611) which provided information about investigation reports published by the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman regarding the Council from May 2007 to October 2010, and complaints received by the Ombudsman about the Council in 2009-10.

Resolved:

- (i) The published investigation reports, and the fact that no findings of maladministration were made against the Council, be noted.
- (ii) It be noted that all but one of the Ombudsman's recommendations have been accepted by Council Officers and that appropriate action has been taken in each case.
- (iii) The complaints received by the Ombudsman about the Council in 2009-10, and the comparative information about all Councils for this period, be noted.

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