

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held in The Committee Room, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 6 February 2008 at 10.00am.

Present: Councillors K Baird, I Campbell, A Gaunt, J Law, W Lumsden and B Vaughan and Mrs H Bridge (until Art. 53).

In Attendance: B Malone, Chief Executive (until Art. 54); G Taylor, B Renton, J Gilchrist, P Graham (until Art. 51), C Taylor, M Antoniewicz and J Dickson (all Chief Executive's Service); G Stevenson, Executive Director (Corporate Services); R Thomson, H MacKenzie, E Crighton and A Nairn (all Corporate Services) (until Art. 51); R Bean (The Environment Service); J Dean (Housing and Community Care); C Webb (Education and Children's Services) (until Art. 53) and A McDonald (Senior Audit Manager – Best Value Audit Team).

Apology for Absence: Councillors D Scott and Mr I Jackson.

Councillor Baird, Convener, Presiding.

48. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

49. MINUTES

(i) Minute of Meeting of Standards and Scrutiny Committee of 5 December 2007

The Minute of Meeting of the Standards and Scrutiny Committee of 5 December 2007 (Arts. 748-755) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

(ii) Audit Sub Committee of 8 November 2007

The Minute of Meeting of the Audit Sub-Committee of 8 November 2007 was submitted and noted. (*Appendix I*)

(iii) Social Work Complaints Review Committee of 19 October 2007

The Minute of Meeting of the Social Work Complaints Review Committee of 19 October 2007 was submitted and the recommendation set out in the minute approved. (*Appendix II*)

A NAIRN LEFT AND REJOINED THE MEETING DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM.

50. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S SERVICE – SIX MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT (Art. 758/07)

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive (07/816) reviewing the performance of the Chief Executive's Service for the period 1 April 2007 to 30 September 2007.

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

Resolved:

- (i) It be noted that the Chief Executive's Service Six Monthly Performance Report for the period 1 April 2007 to 30 September 2007 was submitted to, and accepted by, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 12 December 2007.
- (ii) The Chief Executive's Service Six Monthly update on performance against the Business Management and Improvement Plan for the period 1 April 2007 to 30 September 2007, as detailed in the Appendix to Report 07/816, be noted.

P GRAHAM LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS STAGE.

51. CORPORATE SERVICES – SIX MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (07/817) reviewing the performance of Corporate Services for the period from 1 April 2007 to 30 September 2007.

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 Corporate Services' Six Monthly Performance Report for the period 1 April 2007 to 30 September 2007 was submitted to, and accepted by, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 12 December 2007.
- (ii) The Corporate Services' Six Monthly update on performance against the Business Management and Improvement Plan for the period 1 April 2007 to 30 September 2007, as detailed in the Appendix to Report 07/817, be noted.

H MacKENZIE, E CRIGHTON, R THOMSON and A NAIRN LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS STAGE.

52. RAISING ATTAINMENT IN PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL SCHOOLS

C Webb, Head of Education Services gave an illustrated presentation on Raising Attainment and Achievement in Perth and Kinross Schools. He outlined the Service's objectives and key strategic and operational issues and the complexity involved in developing a Raising Attainment and Achievement Strategy aimed at enabling young people to achieve their full potential. C Webb then answered members' questions.

The Convener, on behalf of the Committee, thanked C Webb for a most informative presentation.

MRS BRIDGE LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT AND C WEBB LEFT THE MEETING DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM.

53. CUSTOMER SERVICE STANDARDS – PERFORMANCE MONITORING

There was submitted a report by the Head of Strategic Management and Improvement (08/64) providing details of the performance on Customer Services Standards across the Council for the period April to September 2007.

Representatives of the Chief Executive's Service were present to answer members' questions in relation to a number of issues.

Resolved:

- (i) The performance results under the Customer Service Standards, as detailed in Report 08/64, be noted.
- (ii) The focus on Customer Service and the Customer Service Standards for Council Employees continue to be promoted.
- (iii) It be remitted to the Head of Strategic Management and Improvement to submit reports on performance against the Customer Service Standards to the Scrutiny Committee on a six monthly basis.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE LEFT THE MEETING DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM.

54. DEVELOPING A FORWARD PROGRAMME FOR SCRUTINY

There was submitted a report by the Head of Strategic Management and Improvement (08/68), (1) providing information on the current scrutiny arrangements within Perth and Kinross Council; (2) highlighting the significance of the role which elected members have in the process; and (3) focusing on the potential for the further development of scrutiny arrangements as well as outlining

a number of proposals to improve these, linked to the review of political decision making and the overall Perth and Kinross Council approach to performance management and continuous improvement.

Representatives of the Chief Executive's Service were present to answer members' questions in relation to a number of issues.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 08/68 be noted.
- (ii) The proposals outlined in Section 4 of Report 08/68, be approved.
- (iii) The Scrutiny Improvement Plan, detailed in Appendix 2 to Report 08/68, be approved.
- (iv) A report by the Head of Strategic Management and Improvement on the outcomes of the benchmarking visits be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee on 16 April 2008.