

STANDARDS AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting of the Standards and Scrutiny Committee held in the Committee Room, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 6 December 2006 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors Barrett, Coburn, Ellis, Jack, Lloyd and Mair and Mr I Jackson, Mr C Mackie and Mr F Shewan (until Art. 780(ii)).

In Attendance: A Nairn, I Innes (until Art. 780(v)), K Lawrie, J Symon, G Taylor, H MacKenzie, R Thomson and M Kay (all Corporate Services); T Yule and C Johnston (both Chief Executive's); S Powell (Executive Director – Education & Children's Services), W Kirkpatrick (until Art. 780(ii)), L Mason and M Anderson (until Art. 779) (all Education & Children's Services); D Roberts (Executive Director - Housing & Community Care) (until Art. 780(v)), D Burke, L Cameron and J Gilruth (all Community Care); J Walker, E Coyle and I Sleith (all Environment Services);

Also Attending: Councillor G Hunter (until Art. 780(ii)(b)); Mrs M Miller and Mrs E Muir (Tenants Federation Representatives).

Apology for Absence: Councillor Lennie

Councillor Lloyd, Convener, Presiding.

776. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

777. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(i) Standards and Scrutiny Committee – 25 October 2006

The Minute of Meeting of the Standards and Scrutiny Committee of 25 October 2006 (Arts. 677-682) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

(ii) Audit Sub-Committee – 21 September 2006

The Minute of Meeting of the Audit Sub-Committee of 21 September 2006 was submitted and noted (**Appendix I**).

778. HMIE, CARE COMMISSION AND EDUCATION AUTHORITY REPORTS ON STANDARDS AND QUALITY IN SCHOOLS, PRE-SCHOOL CENTRES AND OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (06/846) advising the Committee of the key findings and progress made with the main points for action as set out in the five summary reports (Appendices 1-5 to Report 06/846) from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE), the Care Commission and the Education Authority, relating to Muthill Primary School, Blairgowrie High School, Glenfarg Playgroup, Paddington's Children's Nursery, Perth and Teddy Bear Care Nursery, Crieff.

Officers from Education and Children's Services were present to answer members' questions on the following, particularly in relation to the action being taken to address issues raised within the reports.

(a) Muthill Primary School

Resolved:

The findings of the HMIE Inspection Report on the standards and quality in Muthill Primary School be noted.

(b) Blairgowrie High School

Resolved:

The findings of the HMle Follow-through Inspection Report on the standards and quality in Blairgowrie High School be noted.

(c) Glenfarg Playgroup

Resolved:

The findings of the HMle/Care Commission Integrated Inspection Report on the standards and quality in Glenfarg Playgroup be noted.

(d) Paddington's Children's Nursery, Perth

Resolved:

The findings of the HMle/Care Commission Integrated Inspection Report on the standards and quality in Paddington's Children's Nursery, Perth be noted.

(e) Teddy Bear Care Nursery, Crieff

Resolved:

The findings of the HMle/Care Commission Integrated Inspection Report on the standards and quality in Teddy Bear Care Nursery, Crieff be noted.

779. ANNUAL STATUTORY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS RESULTS REPORT 2005/06

There was submitted a report by the Head of Business Change & Improvement (06/847) detailing the audited Statutory Performance Indicators for the financial year 2005/06 and illustrating comparisons with performance in 2003/04 and 2004/05, where comparable figures exist.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 06/847 be noted.
- (ii) The issue of road network restrictions as a result of repairs required to bridges, in particular railway bridges, outwith the Council's control be raised at the Perth & Kinross Parliamentary Forum.
- (iii) It be noted that Statutory Performance Indicator Community Service should be measured in hours not weeks.

In terms of Standing Order 19, the Committee agreed to alter the order in which the six monthly performance reports were considered as follows:-

780. SIX MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORTS

(i) Education & Children's Service

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education & Children's Services) (06/848) reviewing the performance of Education and Children's Services for the period 1 April 2006 to 30 September 2006.

Resolved:

- (i) The progress made with the Business Management and Improvement Plan (BMIP) actions as a result of the 2006-07 service planning process be noted.
- (ii) Report 06/848 be remitted to the next meeting of the Lifelong Learning Committee for their information.

MR MACKIE, MR JACKSON AND MR SHEWAN LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

(ii) Housing and Community Care

(a) Housing and Building Services

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (06/852) reviewing the performance of the Housing and Building Services Division for the period 1 April 2006 to 30 September 2006.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 06/852 be approved.
- (ii) It be noted that Report 06/852 will be published on the Council's website and a summary report will be made publicly available for stakeholders.

(b) Community Care and Criminal Justice Services

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (06/853) reviewing the performance of Community Care and Criminal Justice Services for the period 1 April 2006 to 30 September 2006.

Resolved:

The contents of Report 06/853 be noted.

(iii) Chief Executive's Service

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive (06/849) reviewing the performance of the Chief Executive's Service against the Business Management and Improvement Plan for the period 1 April 2006 to 30 September 2006.

Resolved:

The contents of Report 06/849 be approved.

(iv) Corporate Services

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) (06/850) reviewing the performance of Corporate Services against the Business Management and Improvement Plan for the period 1 April 2006 to 30 September 2006.

Resolved:

The contents of Report 06/850 be approved.

(v) The Environment Service

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (06/851) reviewing the performance of The Environment Service against their Business Management and Improvement Plan for the period 1 April 2006 to 30 September 2006.

Resolved:

The contents of Report 06/851 be approved.

781. CARE COMMISSION INSPECTION OF LEWIS PLACE DAY CENTRE FOR OLDER PEOPLE, PERTH

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing & Community Care) (06/854) advising of the key findings of a Care Commission Inspection of Lewis Place Day Centre for Older People and highlighting the main points for action.

Resolved:

The contents of Report 06/854 be noted in particular (1) the areas of strength, (2) the recommendations made by the Care Commission, (3) the action being undertaken by the service following the inspection and (4) that paragraph 3.3 – line 2 should read “5 recommendations”.

782. BUILDING STANDARDS AUDIT BY SCOTTISH BUILDING STANDARDS AGENCY

There was submitted a report by the Head of Development Standards (06/855) informing the Committee of the findings of the first audit of the Council's Building Standards Service by the Scottish Building Standards Agency.

Resolved:

The contents of the report by the Building Standards Agency contained at Appendix 1 to Report 06/855 be noted.

783. AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE – PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS

Resolved:

The meetings of the Audit Sub-Committee be held as follows:-

Monday 18 December 2006 at 10.00am

Thursday 22 February 2007 at 2.00pm