

**PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL****Lifelong Learning Committee****26 August 2015****Short Life Member Officer Working Group****Report by Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report informs Lifelong Learning Committee (LLC) of the considerations and recommendations of the Short Life Member Officer Working Group, which was agreed at the LLC on the 11 March 2015 to discuss how elected and non-elected members of the LLC could have a more active role in consideration of and supporting the improvement of educational performance in Perth and Kinross Council.

**1. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES**

- 1.1 At LLC on 11 March 2015 (Article 185 refers), after discussion of a national report by Audit Scotland "School Education", a Short Life Member Officer Working Group was formed to consider ways in which elected and non-elected members of the LLC might have a more active role in scrutinising, challenging and improving education performance in Perth and Kinross Council. The Working Group comprised 5 elected members and 1 non-elected member of the LLC, senior officers and was chaired by the Convener of the Lifelong Learning Committee.

**2. PROPOSALS**

- 2.1 The Working Group met on the 19 June 2015 and considered how the remit of the Executive Sub-Committee of the LLC could be widened to allow members the opportunity to carry out more scrutiny at appropriate points. There was discussion around whether more detailed scrutiny of the Extended Learning and Achievement Visit (ELAV) would help determine if a school was delivering the outcomes members would wish to see; and also more information being made available around HMI reports to help establish how an individual school had obtained a particular level of performance and why any poor performance had not been picked up at an earlier stage.
- 2.2 It was confirmed that ELAV reports were now being sent to all members of the LLC after publication and composite data on performance over a 4/5 year period on external inspections would be included in future reports to the Sub-Committee. There was also discussion about head teacher involvement in the Sub-Committee and what discussion took place with head teachers and senior officers before and after attendance at the Sub-Committee. Consideration was also given to the value of members of the Lifelong Learning Committee having the opportunity to visit schools.

- 2.3 It was noted that the frequency of reporting on secondary schools in comparison with early years and primary was much less given the number of secondary schools in Perth and Kinross and the Head of Education - Secondary and Inclusion had suggested how a more detailed analysis of secondary school performance in a range of areas could be helpful to the Sub-Committee.
- 2.4 The Working Group also considered background information provided including:
- (i) Standards and Quality Report Guidance 2015;
  - (ii) Operational Guidance 2015-16;
  - (iii) Self-evaluation 2014-15;
  - (iv) Support for pupils self- evaluation form 2014-15 and Departmental Improvement Plan 2015-18
  - (v) School Improvement Framework Map and Strategic Plan Guidance.
- 2.5 From the discussion it was agreed that to undertake effective scrutiny as much relevant information as possible should be available to the Sub-Committee. This would allow members to feel they had confidence when speaking to parents that they were fully aware of what was happening in a school and the actions being taken to address any improvements that had been identified.

### **3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Working Group considered that the effectiveness of the Executive Sub-Committee could be improved by developing current reporting procedures around consideration of reports about individual schools. In addition it was considered that it would be helpful to develop a rolling programme of thematic discussions. Those would include cross-cutting themes, as well as good practice, under-performance locally and benchmarking with other local authorities on information from the local government benchmarking framework. It was suggested the first theme for consideration by the Sub-Committee should be literacy and numeracy.

The current remits of both the Executive Sub-Committee of the Lifelong Learning Committee and the Scrutiny Committee can be viewed in the [Scheme of Administration](#).

- 3.1 It is recommended that Council be asked to amend the Scheme of Administration to confirm that:
- (i) The Executive Sub-Committee of Lifelong Learning Committee be given the wider remit to consider reports by both Education Scotland and Education and Children's Services on individual school performance, pre-school partner providers and community learning, including general aspects of education provision, learning and teaching, the curriculum, and care and welfare.

- (ii) The Scrutiny Committee be given the wider remit to consider trends in reports by both Education Scotland and Education and Children's Services on individual school performance, pre-school partner providers and community learning, including general aspects of education provision, learning and teaching, the curriculum, and care and welfare.

**Author(s)**

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**Approved**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Date</b>
John Fyffe	Executive Director	31 July 2015

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## 1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

<b>Strategic Implications</b>	<b>Yes / None</b>
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	<b>Yes</b>
Corporate Plan	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Resource Implications</b>	
Financial	<b>None</b>
Workforce	<b>None</b>
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	<b>None</b>
<b>Assessments</b>	
Equality Impact Assessment	<b>Yes</b>
Strategic Environmental Assessment	<b>None</b>
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	<b>None</b>
Legal and Governance	<b>Yes</b>
Risk	<b>None</b>
<b>Consultation</b>	
Internal	<b>Yes</b>
External	<b>None</b>
<b>Communication</b>	
Communications Plan	<b>None</b>

### 1. Strategic Implications

#### Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

1.1 The proposals relate to the delivery of the Perth and Kinross Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement in terms of the following priorities:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations

This report relates to Objective No (i) Giving every child the best start in life and (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens.

#### Corporate Plan

1.2 The Perth and Kinross Community Plan 2013-2023 and Perth and Kinross Council Corporate Plan 2013/2018 set out five strategic objectives:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life;
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

This report relates to Objective No (i) Giving every child the best start in life and (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens.

1.3 The report also links to the Education & Children's Services Policy Framework in respect of the following key policy area:

- Change and Improvement

## **2. Resource Implications**

### Financial

2.1 Not applicable

### Workforce

2.2 Not applicable

### Asset Management (land, property, IT)

2.3 Not applicable

## **3. Assessments**

### Equality Impact Assessment

3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.

- (i) The information contained within this report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome and has been assessed as not relevant for the purposes of EqIA.

### Strategic Environmental Assessment

3.2 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals. However, no action is required as the Act does not apply to the matters presented in this report. This is because the Committee are requested to note the contents of the report only and the Committee are not being requested to approve, adopt or agree to an action or to set the framework for future decisions.

Sustainability

3.3 Not applicable.

Legal and Governance

3.4 Not applicable

Risk

3.5 Not applicable.

**4. Consultation**

Internal

4.1 Democratic Services have been consulted.

External

4.2 Not applicable

**5. Communication**

5.1 This report will be discussed at Lifelong Learning Committee.

**2. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.