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**Report to Clackmannanshire Council**

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**Date of Meeting: 3 March 2016**

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**Subject: Resources & Audit Sub-committee**

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**Report by: Head of Strategy & Customer Services**

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**1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for Resources & Audit Sub-committee business to be considered by the full Resources & Audit Committee in future. If approved, this would remove the need for the Sub-committee as it currently exists.

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that Council agrees that Resources and Audit Committee will resume the functions delegated to the Resources & Audit Sub-committee, which will then cease to exist.

**3.0 Considerations**

Background

- 3.1. On 1 June 2012, Council approved the current decision-making framework. Scrutiny of community planning and its effectiveness was remitted to the Resources & Audit Committee. On 11 October 2012, Council determined that the Resources & Audit Committee would also be responsible for the scrutiny of Police and Fire Services within the context of single national services.
- 3.2. The Resources & Audit Committee subsequently (28 February 2013) considered a paper on the Scrutiny of Police, Fire & Rescue Services and other Key External Partners, on the basis that the Scheme of Delegation allows standing committees to establish sub-committees subject to Council approval. The Sub-committee's remit as proposed, and subsequently agreed by Council on 14 March 2013, is as follows:
- scrutiny of community planning and its effectiveness;
  - monitor the performance of Scottish Police Force and Scottish Fire Service against agreed outcomes, standards and targets as they relate to Clackmannanshire;

- scrutiny of public sector reform.
- 3.3. Council also agreed on 14 March 2013 that the Sub-committee be comprised of:
- the Convenor of Resources and Audit Committee, who will chair the meetings;
  - four members of the Resources and Audit Committee (two from the opposition parties and two from the Administration); and,
  - in consideration of committee responsibility for the issue of community safety, that the Convenor of Housing, Health and Care Committee is also an ex-officio non-voting member of the sub-committee.

#### Developments

- 3.4. The scope and quality of reporting has developed markedly since 2013. Sub-committee developments have reflected developments in Public Sector Reform. From mainly Police and Fire & Rescue Service reports in the initial phases, the Sub-committee now receives regular reports across a range of community planning business, as well as reporting from NHS Forth Valley and Clackmannanshire Third Sector Interface on their contributions to Clackmannanshire's Single Outcome Agreement. Further developments are in the pipeline, e.g. Community Justice.
- 3.5. The more established reports, e.g. those from Police & Fire, use the Covalent format. These particularly provide the Sub-committee with good quality performance information that has increasingly enabled effective scrutiny and greater understanding of the work and contribution of partners towards improving outcomes in Clackmannanshire.
- 3.6. Whilst there remains room for development within the role of the Sub-committee, there is also a developing sense that the scope and maturity of the business would benefit from consideration by the full Resources & Audit Committee. There are several aspects to this:
- the Sub-committee is dealing with core issues that are priorities for the Council and communities;
  - community planning is central to public sector reform, and for that matter, Council transformation, which is increasingly interdependent on joint resourcing with partners; and,
  - the pool of members is small - this had led to occasions when the Sub-committee, though quorate, has had as few as three elected members (including the Chair) in the Chamber for the purpose of scrutiny.

#### Proposal

- 3.7. Given the above, it is proposed that the Sub-committee is discontinued, with the role of scrutiny of the effectiveness of community planning and that of Police and Fire & Rescue Services reverting back to the full Resources & Audit Committee.

- 3.8. In order to make the business manageable, it is proposed that the existing schedules for R&A Committee and the Sub-committee are retained, with the Sub-committee dates being renamed and used to deal with full committee business. This would result in an additional four R&A Committees, with a total of 9 in an annual cycle. In practice it is anticipated that the current delineation of business will remain, with four Committees dedicated to community planning business, though it does provide the opportunity for flexibility should a future need arise.

#### 4.0 Sustainability Implications

- 4.1. There are no direct sustainability implications arising from this report.

#### 5.0 Resource Implications

##### 5.1. *Financial Details*

- 5.2. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

- 5.3. Finance have been consulted and have agreed the financial implications as set out in the report. Yes

##### 5.4. *Staffing*

#### 6.0 Exempt Reports

- 6.1. Is this report exempt? Yes  (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No

#### 7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

- (1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box )

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| The area has a positive image and attracts people and businesses         | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Our communities are more cohesive and inclusive                          | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| People are better skilled, trained and ready for learning and employment | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Our communities are safer  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Vulnerable people and families are supported                             | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Substance misuse and its effects are reduced                             | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Health is improving and health inequalities are reducing                 | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| The environment is protected and enhanced for all                        | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| The Council is effective, efficient and recognised for excellence        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

- (2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

## 8.0 Equalities Impact

8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?

Yes  No

## 9.0 Legality

9.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes

9.2 Given there are only 18 Members of the Council, it is acknowledged that there is potential for conflict of interest from time to time where a Member of the resources & Audit Committee also has a policy leadership role in the context of other duties, e.g. as a member of the Community Planning Partnership. Where there is a potential conflict of interest, it should be raised as a declaration of Interest.

## 10.0 Appendices

10.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

None

## 11.0 Background Papers

11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)

Yes  (please list the documents below) No

Report to Council: Council Decision Making Framework - 1 June 2012

Report to Council: Scrutiny of Police & Fire Services - 11 October 2012

Report to Resources & Audit Committee: Scrutiny of Police, Fire & Rescue Services and other Key External Partners - 28 February 2013

### Author(s)

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**Approved by**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>DESIGNATION</b>	<b>SIGNATURE</b>
Stuart Crickmar	Head of Strategy & Customer Services	Signed: S Crickmar
Garry Dallas	Executive Director	Signed: G Dallas

