

CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 11th October, 2012

Subject: Leader's Briefing

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this briefing is to inform all elected members of a range of issues and activities which I have been engaged with in the past quarter. It is also intended to assist in raising awareness amongst members of a number of matters which affect the Council or the area and, as such, inform future workstreams.
- 1.2 Should any member of the Council wish to discuss any of the issues in this report in more detail, I will be happy to meet with them.
- 1.3 The report covers the period August-September, 2012.

2.0 National Issues Affecting Clackmannanshire

- 2.1 I attended the COSLA Leaders' Meetings in August and September Items discussed were:
- Children's Hospice Association Scotland - Funding
 - Children & Young People's Bill
 - National Group on Community Planning
 - National Information & Communications Technology Strategy
 - Local Government ICT Strategy, Broadband
 - 2013/14 Local Government Settlement, Settlement & Distribution Issues
 - Welfare Reform
 - Pensions
 - Council Tax Support Scheme
 - Evidence to the Finance Committee on Demographic Change and Ageing Population
 - Health & Social Care Settlement
 - The Commission on Rural Education
 - Regeneration Funding
 - Community Empowerment & Renewal Bill Consultation
 - Low Carbon & Electric Vehicles National Charging Network
 - Commonwealth Games & Other Opportunities
 - Establishment of Audit Group
 - Benchmarking
- 2.2 Associated papers for the above meetings have been placed on the members' portal for members to access.
- 2.3 On 4 September, the Chief Executive and I met with the Local Government Minister, Derek Mackay. The focus of the discussion was around the changing

context of community planning. After the meeting, I accompanied the Minister to Forth Valley College where he heard a very powerful and informative presentation from the Council-led Young Parents' Project.

- 2.4 On 21 September, together with the Chief Executive, I met the COSLA President, Vice President and Depute Chief Executive. The visit by COSLA colleagues was part of a programme of visits being made to all authorities to discuss significant matters affecting local government and COSLA's role in promoting and supporting local government.

3.0 Supporting Communities

- 3.1 On 30 August, I met with representatives of Alva Community Council, the Joint Community Councils' Forum and the Tenants' & Residents Federation as part of ongoing discussion with community representatives about the challenges which antisocial behaviour presents to communities across Clackmannanshire and the measures that the Council can take with all partners to help mitigate its occurrence and impact on communities.
- 3.2 The county suffered a number of weather incidents in August (flooding and lightning) which resulted in damage to property and disruption to residents and communities. Most notably, residents were evacuated from Menstrie House due to flash flooding. I am pleased to report that all incidents were dealt with professionally and effectively.

4.0 Partnership Working

- 4.1 I chaired the Clackmannanshire Alliance meeting held on 7 September. Items discussed were:
- Community Planning National Review
 - SOA 2012/13
 - Empowerment and Renewal Bill Consultation
 - Integration of Health and Adult Care Consultation
 - Clackmannanshire Works
 - Economic Resilience
 - Police and Fire Reform
 - Draft Clackmannanshire Housing Strategy 2012-17
- 4.2 Alliance members also agreed to sign up to Armed Forces Community Covenant.
- 4.3 Associated papers for the Alliance meeting have been placed on the members' portal for members to access.
- 4.4 In August I met with chief officers from the police and fire services to discuss the implications for, and potential organisation of, local services in the context of national reforms. A detailed report on this has been circulated with the agenda for the Council meeting of 11 October.
- 4.5 Across August and September, I have attended a number of meetings in my capacity as Council representative on the board of NHS Forth Valley. These have included formal board meetings and separate meetings with the Chair of the Board and the Chief Executive of NHS Forth Valley. I also attended a seminar on health

and care integration at Raploch Campus which involved a range of stakeholders across Forth Valley. The aim of this was to inform feedback to the Scottish Government's consultation and to hear from individuals and groups their views on how integrated health and care services should operate.

- 4.6 A shared services Steering Group met in August, 2012, and was attended by myself, the Depute Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition. The Group heard updates on education, social services and relevant support services.

5.0 Supporting Business & Employability

- 5.1 I attended a Clackmannanshire Business Board meeting on 29th August. Items discussed were:-

- Clackmannanshire Alliance/Partnership Team
- Imagine Alloa
- Events -
 - "Showcase Your Business" - feedback
 - 9th October, SDP "Maximising Your Tender Score"
- Priorities for 2012/13
- Office Space/Budgets

6.0 Children & Young People

- 6.1 I have received a response from the Minister for Children & Families further to my letter to her about the independent review of childcare. The Minister has offered direct support from the Care & Permanence Team with the Scottish Government and officers are engaged in taking that forward. Other issues of capacity in childcare are subject to a separate report to Council.

7.0 Staff Visits

- 7.1 Along with the Convenor of the Education, Sport & Leisure Committee, I visited the Speirs Centre to see the library facilities and meet with staff who executed the move from Drysdale Street so effectively. I was impressed with both the new facility and the efforts by staff to make the transition for the public as seamless as possible.
- 7.2 I also had an introductory meeting with trade unions representatives in August, as well as attending the Tripartite meeting in September.

Councillor Gary Womersley
Council Leader
October, 2012

