

CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL

MINUTE OF MEETING of the SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held within the Council Chamber, Greenfield, Alloa, on THURSDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2009 at 9.30 am.

Present:

Councillor Donald Balsillie (Convener)
Councillor John Biggam
Councillor Alastair Campbell
Councillor Mark English
Councillor Harry McLaren
Provost Derek Stewart
Councillor Gary Womersley

In Attendance:

Angela Leitch, Chief Executive
Grahame Blair, Director of Services to People
Peter Broadfoot, Head of Administration and Legal Services
Barry Dickson, Head of Business Improvement and Technology Services
John Gillespie, Head of Housing, Property and Benefit Advice
Jim Goodall, Head of Education and Community Services
Ewart McAuslane, Head of Environmental Services
Muir Wilson, Head of Finance
Jim Burke, Senior Manager, Child Care Services
Aileen Littlejohn, Support Services Manager (Clerk to the Committee)
Susan Mackay, Senior Auditor

Also Present:

Councillor Janet Cadenhead

SC(09)180 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

There were no apologies for absence from Committee members.

Apologies for absence were received from Garry Dallas, Director of Development and Environmental Services.

SC(09)181 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

SC(09)182 MINUTE OF MEETING HELD ON 22ND JULY 2009

The Committee approved the minute of the Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 22nd July 2009 as a correct record of proceedings. The minute of the meeting was signed by the Convener.

Councillor McLaren raised his concern about the verbal response from the Convener regarding statements that had appeared in the local press. Councillor McLaren circulated a copy of a presentation by APSE and highlighted the slide entitled "What Scrutiny is Not." The Convener acknowledged Councillor McLaren's comments and confirmed that he has asked officers to put a protocol in place with regard to inviting Portfolio Holders to the Scrutiny Committee, the questioning process and how the responses are minuted.

SC(09)183 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE LIST OF ONGOING ACTIONS

- SID 2171 The Convener confirmed that Councillor McGill, the Administration's spokesperson for Leisure, had agreed to attend the next Scrutiny Committee Meeting being held on Thursday 22nd October 2009.
- SID 2149 The Head of Environmental Services advised that a report on the implementation of the blue bins had been added to the Scrutiny Committee forward plan for 3rd December 2009.

Decision

The Committee agreed to note the updated Scrutiny Committee list of Ongoing Actions.

SC(09)184 SOA 2008-09 ANNUAL REPORT

A report which presented the Annual Report of the Clackmannanshire Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) 2008-09 was submitted by the Head of Strategic Policy for consideration by the Committee.

Motion

1. To note the SOA Annual Report for 2008-09; and
2. To agree that all elected members should be invited to attend the Alliance hosted event in October 2009 for representatives of the statutory signatories (including the Council).

Moved by Councillor Alistair Campbell. Seconded by Provost Derek Stewart.

Decision

The Committee unanimously agreed to approve the motion.

Action

Chief Executive

SC(09)185 FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND

A report providing details on funding provided to Arms-length External Organisations (ALEOs) across the Council in the current financial year 2009/10 which detailed individual funding arrangements by each Service, was submitted by the Head of Finance.

Motion

That the Committee notes the content of the report.

Moved by Councillor Harry McLaren. Seconded by Councillor John Biggam.

Decision

The Committee unanimously agreed to approve the motion.

SC(09)186 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT - 30 JUNE 2009

The report, submitted by the Senior Auditor, provided the quarterly update on progress of the Internal Audit Annual Plan which was approved by the Scrutiny Committee on 9th April 2009, in accordance with the Financial Regulations. The report also provided the quarterly update on the progress of implementation by officers of recommendations from previous Internal Audit Reports and of the National Fraud Initiative for 2008-09. The Senior Auditor attended to present information on the four audits summarised in the report: Community Chest; Risk Management; Homeless Procurement; and Corporate Network and System Access Controls.

Motion

That the Committee notes the reports and progress made to 30th June 2009.

Moved by Councillor Gary Womersley. Seconded by Councillor Alistair Campbell.

Decision

The Committee unanimously agreed to approve the motion.

SC(09)187 STATUTORY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2008/09

The Statutory Performance Indicators (SPIs) are submitted to Audit Scotland by each council annually, and measure performance across a wide range of services. The report, submitted by the Head of Business Improvement and Technology Services, discusses Clackmannanshire Council's performance from the 1st of April 2008 to the 31st March 2009. The purpose of the report is to compare performance. The purpose of the report was to compare performance with previous years, and to highlight areas of notable improvement, consistency and decline.

Motion

That the Committee note the contents of the report and particularly, the areas where performance merits corrective action.

Moved by Councillor Gary Womersley. Seconded by Provost Derek Stewart.

Decision

The Committee unanimously agreed to approve the motion.

The Convener adjourned the meeting at 11.30 am. The meeting re-convened at 11.40 am

At 12 noon, during the following item, Provost Derek Stewart withdrew from the meeting.

SC(09)188 HMI: PROGRESS REPORTING ON CLACKMANNANSHERE'S JOINT INSPECTION OF SERVICE TO PROTECT CHILDREN REPORTS, FEBRUARY 2008 AND FEBRUARY 2009

The report, submitted by the Head of Social Services and Chief Social Work Officer, outlined the progress on the recommendations for improvement that were set out in the multi-agency HMIE Inspection Report published in February 2008 and the Interim Follow Through Inspection Report published in February 2009.

The Senior Manager for Child Care Services attended to present information on the seven key issues highlighted for improvement in the HMIE's initial inspection report, published in February 2008.

Motion

That the Committee note the progress that is being made. HMIE will be carrying out a full joint re-inspection of child protection services within Clackmannanshire in January 2010.

Moved by Councillor Harry McLaren. Seconded by Councillor Mark English.

Decision

The Committee unanimously agreed to approve the motion.

SC(09)189 LEARNING CENTRES AND LEARNING ACCESS POINTS - NUMBER OF USERS

The report, submitted by the Head of Education and Community Services, provided the Scrutiny Committee with the information and comment which it requested in relation to a Statutory Performance Indicator relating to the number of users of Learning Centres and Learning Access Points.

Motion

That members of the Scrutiny Committee note the contents of the paper.

Moved by Councillor John Biggam. Seconded by Councillor Harry McLaren.

Decision

The Committee unanimously agreed to approve the motion.

