



**MINUTE OF MEETING of the SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held within the Council Chamber,
Greenfield, Alloa, on THURSDAY 20 MAY 2010 at 9.30 am.**

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Garry Dallas, Director of Services to Communities
Deirdre Cilliers, Head of Social Policy
John Gillespie, Head of Community and Regulatory Services
Elaine McPherson, Head of Strategy and Customer Services
Lesley Robertson, Interim Head of Education
Aileen Littlejohn, Business Support Manager (Clerk to the Committee)
Stewart Crickmar, Business Improvement Manager
Susan MacKay, Finance Manager
Gary Devlin, External Auditor, Grant Thornton

SC(10)248 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were received from Provost Derek Stewart and Angela Leitch, Chief Executive.

SC(10)249 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

SC(10)250 MINUTE OF MEETING HELD ON 8 APRIL 2010

A minute of the Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 8 April 2010 was submitted for approval by the Committee.

Motion

To approve the minute as a correct record of proceedings.

Moved by Councillor John Biggam. Seconded by Councillor Gary Womersley.

Decision

The Committee agreed to approve the minute of the meeting held on 8 April 2010 as a correct record of proceedings.

The minute of the meeting was signed by the Convener.

The Convener advised that, although it is his responsibility, he had not yet carried out the action noted for item SC(10)246 . It is his intention to invite the Regeneration Portfolio to attend the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee Focus Group on 24 June 2010.

Action

Councillor Donald Balsillie (Convener)

SC(10)251 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN

A list of ongoing actions from the Scrutiny Committee meetings was submitted for information. The Committee agreed to note the following actions:

SID 2182: End of Year Balanced Scorecard 2009/10

The Convener confirmed that the Business Improvement Manager had attended the April 2010 Focus Group meeting. Action completed.

SID 2211: Protocol for Questions to Portfolio Holders

The Head of Strategy and Customer Services advised that there is a discussion paper currently with the Chief Executive in draft format. Once approved, it will be circulated to all members for comment.

SID 2230: Internal Audit Progress Report - 21 December 2009

Arrangements are now in hand to make the reports available on the Members' Portal. Action completed.

SC(10)252 COMMUNITY PLANNING

The report provided a commentary on the various issues raised by the Scrutiny Focus Group's report on Community Planning.

Motion

That the Committee :

- a) notes this paper as a contribution to its deliberations on community planning in Clackmannanshire; and
- (b) provides any specific feedback or recommendations for the review of community planning which is being carried out by the Alliance.

Moved by Councillor Alistair Campbell. Seconded by Councillor Mark English.

Decision

The Committee unanimously agreed to note the paper as a contribution to its deliberations on community planning in Clackmannanshire; and provided the undernoted feedback:

- The Committee recommended the introduction of a formal mechanism to provide information to elected members on the value for money and effectiveness of projects funded through the Alliance and the Fairer Scotland Fund. It was suggested that there should be quarterly meetings between the Alliance and elected members. The quarterly monitoring reports outlining the outputs and financial position of the projects which are submitted to the Alliance, should also be made available to elected members to tie in with the aforementioned quarterly meetings.

- The Committee also asked the Head of Strategy and Customer Services to look again at the mechanisms for community engagement on a village scale to take forward the community plan aspirations.

Action

Head of Strategy and Customer Services

SC(10)253 ANNUAL AUDIT PLAN 2009/10

The report informed Members of the Annual Audit Plan submitted by our external Auditors, Grant Thornton, in respect of the financial year to 31st March 2010. Gary Devlin from Grant Thornton was in attendance to present the Annual Audit Plan.

Motion

That the Committee notes the contents of the report.

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

Decision

The Committee agreed unanimously to note the contents of the report.

The Committee further agreed that the list of internal and external audit recommendations should contrive to be kept and updated regularly to show the progress being made and the timetable for completion.

Action

Finance Manager

SC(10)254 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT - 31 MARCH 2010

A report providing a quarterly update on the progress of the Internal Audit Annual Plan, as approved by the Scrutiny Committee on 9th April 2009, in accordance with the Financial Regulations, was submitted for information.

The report also provided a quarterly update on the progress of implementation of recommendations by officers from previous Internal Audit reports.

Motion

That Committee notes the information set out in the report and progress made to 31 March 2010.

Moved by Councillor Gary Womersley. Seconded by Councillor Harry McLaren.

Decision

The Committee agreed unanimously to note the information set out in the report and progress made to 31 December 2009.

The Committee further agreed that the Chief Executive will be asked to produce a report to Council on Information Security where the assurance assessment is "Limited".

Action

Chief Executive

SC(10)255 HMIE JOINT INSPECTION OF SERVICES TO PROTECT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL AREA, APRIL 2010

A report which updates the Scrutiny Committee regarding the HMIE report into Child Protection practice by partner agencies across Clackmannanshire was submitted for information.

Motion

That Committee notes the information set out in the report and the progress made by services who work together to protect children.

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

Decision

The Committee agreed unanimously to note the information set out in the report and the progress made by services who work together to protect children.

SC(10)256 EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF THE QUALITY OF EDUCATIONAL PROVISION

The report provided a summary of the findings of the inspections conducted by HMIE in primary and secondary schools in session 2009-10. The report also provided an overview of the outcomes of follow through inspections.

Motion

That Committee should note that:

- To date, 100% of all external evaluations carried out by HMIE would be judged to be positive using the criteria attached to the Single Outcome Agreement; and
- All of the schools inspected have demonstrated that overall service provision is of a high quality and that this situation is expected to be sustained as schools continue to work hard on an agenda of continuous improvement.

Moved by Councillor John Biggam. Seconded by Councillor Mark English

Decision

The Committee agreed unanimously to note that, to date, 100% of all external evaluations carried out by HMIE would be judged to be positive using the criteria attached to the Single Outcome Agreement; and that all of the schools inspected have demonstrated that overall service provision is of a high quality and that this situation is expected to be sustained as schools continue to work hard on an agenda of continuous improvement.

SC(10)257 QUALITY REPORT ADULT DAY SERVICES

The report advised the Committee of the outcomes of an announced inspection process by the Care Commission that took place between June 2009 and August 2009. The report also advised of the outcome of the ISO90 001-2000 reaccreditation inspection undertaken by verified external inspectors SGS Yardsley on 2nd February 2010.

Motion

That the Committee:

- Acknowledge the positive practice of both the Whins and Centre Space and the efforts of all Staff and service users without show efforts these positive inspection reports and outcomes would not have been achieved;
- Note the final Care Commission Report set out in Appendix 1 and the Services action plan in response to this inspection by the Care Commission set out in Appendix 2; and
- Note the positive ISO reaccreditation report and the constructive and positive comments of the SGS verifier around the quality systems in place within Adult Day Services as set out in Appendix 3.

Moved by Councillor Harry McLaren. Seconded by Councillor Alistair Campbell.

Councillor Mark English withdrew from the Chamber at this point in the proceedings.

Decision

The Committee unanimously agreed to:

- Acknowledge the positive practice of both the Whins and Centre Space and the efforts of all Staff and service users without show efforts these positive inspection reports and outcomes would not have been achieved;
- Note the final Care Commission Report set out in Appendix 1 and the Services action plan in response to this inspection by the Care Commission set out in Appendix 2; and
- Note the positive ISO reaccreditation report and the constructive and positive comments of the SGS verifier around the quality systems in place within Adult Day Services as set out in Appendix 3.

SC(10)258 HOUSING SERVICES IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The report provided the final update on the Housing Service Improvement Plan following Communities Scotland Inspection, carried out in June 2006.

Motion

That the Committee notes the contents of the report.

Decision

The Committee agreed unanimously to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Mark English returned to the Chamber at this point in the proceedings.

SC(10)259 CLACKS IMPROVEMENT MODEL: END OF YEAR PROGRESS REPORT

The report provided the Committee with an update of progress in the implementation of the Clacks Improvement Model, which is central to the Council's overall change programme, Growing in Excellence.

Motion

That the Committee note:

- progress with self-assessments; and
- progress with, and anticipated targets for, a number of activities being implemented to ensure the Council is Growing in Excellence

Moved by Councillor Alistair Campbell. Seconded by Councillor Harry McLaren.

Decision

The Committee unanimously agreed to note the progress with self-assessments; and progress with, and anticipated targets for, a number of activities being implemented to ensure the Council is Growing in Excellence

SC(10)260 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (CORPORATE MANAGEMENT) 2009/10: END OF YEAR REPORT

The report provided an update on corporate management key performance indicators at the year end of 2009/10. These indicators relate principally to the Council priority outcome "the Council is effective, efficient and recognised for excellence".

Motion

That the Scrutiny Committee note performance achieved against Key Performance Indicators (corporate management) for the year 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010.

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

Decision

The Committee unanimously agreed to note performance achieved against Key Performance Indicators (corporate management) for the year 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010.

The Convener advised that he will undertake the following actions:

- To circulate the table of performance indicators to members of the Scrutiny Focus Group for comment; and
- To invite the Regeneration Portfolio Holder, Councillor Rev. Sam Ovens, to attend the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee Focus Group on 24 June 2010 to consider how actions within the Corporate Parenting Strategy can be monitored by the Scrutiny Committee.

Action

Councillor Donald Balsillie (Convener)

ENDS 1.10 pm