



**MINUTE OF MEETING of the SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held within the Council Chamber,
Greenfield, Alloa, on THURSDAY 21 OCTOBER 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
Provost Derek Stewart

IN ATTENDANCE

Angela Leitch, Chief Executive
Nikki Bridle, Director of Finance and Corporate Services
Deirdre Cilliers, Head of Social Policy
John Gillespie, Head of Community and Regulatory Services
Aileen Littlejohn, Business Support Manager (Clerk to the Committee)
Susan Mackay, Finance Manager
Elaine McPherson, Head of Strategy and Customer Services
Leslie Robertson, Interim Head of Education

SC(10)281 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

None

SC(10)282 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

SC(10)283 MINUTE OF MEETING HELD ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2010

A minute of the Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 9 September 2010 was submitted for approval by the Committee.

Motion

To approve the minute as a correct record of proceedings.

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

Decision

The Committee agreed to approve the minute of the meeting held on 9 September 2010 as a correct record of proceedings.

The minute of the meeting was signed by the Convener.

SC(10)284 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN

A list of ongoing actions from previous Scrutiny Committee meetings was submitted for information.

The Committee agreed to note the following:

SID 2211: Protocol for Questions to Portfolio Holders (Meeting 22/10/09)

The Draft Protocol will be considered by the Scrutiny Committee Focus Group on 21/10/10.

SID 2260: Review of the Council's Scrutiny Committee Arrangements

The Director of Finance and Corporate Services provided an update on progress. Since the last meeting on 09/09/10, a more refined schedule/analysis has been produced. The Director has met with the Scrutiny Committee Convener and a provisional list of interviews has been agreed. Interviews will be conducted throughout November by the Monitoring Officer and the Director of Finance and Corporate Services and a workshop will be held in December.

Management Accounts: (Meeting 09/09/10)

The Committee requested on that the Director of Finance and Corporate Services provide the committee with monthly management team reports for Finance; the monthly management team reports to be provided to each meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

Moved by Councillor Alastair Campbell. Seconded by Councillor Donald Balsillie.

Action: Director of Finance and Corporate Services

SC(10)285 IMPROVEMENTS TO FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PROCESSES

A report which brought to Committee an action plan detailing improvements to be made to the arrangements for monitoring and managing the Council's financial performance was submitted by the Financial Monitoring Sub-Group.

Following the appointment of the Director of Finance and Corporate Services, improving the Council's financial monitoring arrangements had been identified as a key improvement priority. Following a workshop to facilitate the necessary improvements, a Financial Monitoring Sub Group was established to compile an action plan to be taken forward.

Motion

That the Committee notes the information set out in the report and agrees to highlight any additional factors for consideration

Moved by Councillor Gary Womersley. Seconded by Councillor Mark English.

Decision

The Committee agreed to note the information set out in the report and to highlight additional factors for consideration and/or inclusion in the Financial Monitoring Sub Group Action Plan:

The Financial Monitoring Sub Group Action Plan to be populated with target dates and responsible officer names and re-submitted to the Scrutiny Committee of 13 January 2011.

Action

Director of Finance and Corporate Services

SC(10)286 BUDGET MONITORING AUGUST 2010

A report which detailed General Fund revenue spend for the current financial year 2010/11 as at end of August 2010 together with a forecast spend for the year was submitted by the Accounting and Budgeting Manager.

The paper reflected recent improvements made to the arrangements for preparing and presenting financial monitoring information to elected members and senior officers of the Council. The improvements were contained within an improvement plan which was the subject of a separate report to the Scrutiny Committee (SC(10)285 above).

Motion

That the Committee notes the information set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Gary Womersley. Seconded by Councillor Mark English.

Decision

The Committee agreed to note the current financial position and related forecast for the year and to comment on the changes to the reporting arrangements implemented so far.

SC(10)287 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

A report which provided a quarterly update to 30 September on the progress of the Internal Audit Annual Plan, as approved by the Scrutiny Committee on 25 February 2010, in accordance with the Financial Regulations, was submitted by the Finance Manager.

The report also provided a quarterly update on the progress of implementation of recommendations to 30 June by officers from previous Internal Audit Reports.

Motion

That Committee notes the information set out in the report and progress made to 30 September 2010 on the Annual Plan and to 30 June 2010 for the follow up recommendations and comments on the reprioritised Audit Plan for 2010/2011.

Moved by Provost Derek Stewart. Seconded by Councillor John Biggam.

Decision

The Committee agreed to note the information set out in the report and progress made to 30 September 2010 on the Annual Plan and to 30 June 2010 for the follow up recommendations and agreed that a workshop be convened to consider reprioritisation and risks of the Audit Plan for 2010/2011. workshop attendees to include Scrutiny Committee members as well as representation from Internal and External Audit.

Action

Director of Finance and Corporate Services/Director of Services to Communities

- ***Provost Derek Stewart withdrew from the meeting at 12.05 pm during questions on the following item of business.***

SC(10)288 SCHOOL EXCLUSIONS AND GIRFEC

A report which addressed a request from the Scrutiny Committee of 24 June 2010 for a report on exclusions from secondary and primary schools taking into account the trends in the last five years, the "Getting it Right for Every Child" (GIRFEC) agenda and repeat exclusion incidents for individual children, was submitted by the Interim Head of Education.

Motion

That Committee notes the information set out in the report and welcomes the actions that are being undertaken to reduce exclusions in Clackmannanshire Schools.

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

Decision

The Committee agreed to note the information set out in the report and welcomed the actions that are being undertaken to reduce exclusions in Clackmannanshire Schools.

SC(10)289 REVIEW OF SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT 2009-10

A report which presented the review of the Clackmannanshire Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) 2009-10 was submitted by the Head of Strategy and Customer Services.

The review document was approved in draft by the Alliance at its meeting on 10 September 2010 for submission to the Scottish Government and will also be formally reviewed by the statutory signatories of the SOA.

Motion

That Committee notes the progress which has been made by the partnership in meeting the target outcomes, considers any Council activity which may be required in relation to achieving outcomes and provides comments for consideration by the Alliance.

Moved by Councillor Harry McLaren. Seconded by Councillor John Biggam

Decision

The Committee agreed to:

- (a) Note the progress which has been made by the partnership in meeting the target outcomes.
- (b) consider any Council activity which may be required in relation to achieving outcomes; management to consider the role of economic development in discussion with the Alliance.
- (c) provide comments for consideration by the Alliance.

ENDS 12.45 pm