



**Clackmannanshire
Council**

www.clacksweb.org.uk

MINUTE OF RE-CONVENED MEETING of the SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held within the Council Chamber, Greenfield, Alloa, on TUESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2011 at 9.30 am.

Present

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

In Attendance

Nikki Bridle, Director of Finance and Corporate Services
Garry Dallas, Director of Services to Communities
Elaine McPherson, Chief Executive
Aileen Littlejohn, Business Support Manager (Clerk to the Committee)

Also in Attendance:

Gary Devlin, External Auditor, Grant Thornton UK LLP

SC(11)24 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Derek Stewart.

SC(11)25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

SC(11)26 MINUTE OF MEETING: SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 23 JUNE 2011

The minute of the meeting held on 23 June 2011 was submitted for approval.

Moved by Councillor Harry McLaren. Seconded by Councillor Donald Balsillie.

Decision

The minute of the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 23 June 2011 was approved as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Convener.

SC(11)27 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN

A list of ongoing actions from previous Scrutiny Committee meetings was submitted for information. Key issues from the action plan were identified as:

SID 2275 - Internal Audit Update

Update to be provided to the Scrutiny Committee Focus Group on 01/12/11.

SID 2264 - Review of SOA 2009-10

Actions remain ongoing; consideration to be given to policy on liaison with community groups and the role of economic development to be discussed with the Alliance.

SID 2266 - 2010-11 Half Year Risk Management Progress Report

Report on risks associated with climate change to be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee of 1 December 2011.

SC(11)28 EXTERNAL AUDIT - INTERIM AUDIT REPORT 2010/11

A report submitted by the Director of Finance and Corporate Services brought to Committee the Interim Audit Report produced by the Council's external auditors (Grant Thornton) in respect of the areas of work covered by them in relation to the 2010/11 financial year.

Grant Thornton have produced the interim audit report in accordance with their planned activity relating to 2010/11 as outlined in their Audit Approach Memorandum considered by the Scrutiny Committee on 23 June 2011. The report largely covered core financial systems and governance.

The Committee heard from Gary Devlin, External Auditor, Grant Thornton UK LLP, and had opportunity to put questions to him. Mr Devlin undertook to provide an updated prioritised action plan for follow up.

Motion

That Committee notes the recommendations set out in the report together with the management responses and that a report on progress of service level agreements with external organisations which identifies any potential gaps be submitted to Committee.

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

Decision

The Committee agreed unanimously:

- to note the recommendations set out in the report, together with the management responses
- that a report on progress of service level agreements with external organisations which identifies any potential gaps to be submitted to a future committee meeting.

Action

Director of Finance and Corporate Services

SC(11)29 REVIEW OF SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT 2010/11

A report submitted by the Head of Strategy and Customer Services presented the Committee with the review of the Clackmannanshire Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) 2010-11.

The targets set out in the Clackmannanshire Alliance's SOA have been reviewed against baseline positions to provide a sense of progress the partnership is making in achieving the outcomes it set out in 2008. The review document was considered by the Alliance at its meeting on 9 September 2011 and will be formally reviewed by the statutory signatories of the SOA (Joint Police Board, Joint Fire Board, NHS Forth Valley Board).

Motion

That Committee approves the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Donald Balsillie. Seconded by Councillor Gary Womersley.

Decision

The Committee agreed:

- To note progress which has been made by the partnership in meeting the target outcomes; and
- To consider any Council activity which may be required in relation to achieving outcomes

Action

Chief Executive

- Councillor Mark English withdrew from the meeting at this point in the proceedings (10.55 am)

SC(11)30 COUNCIL HOUSING: WINTER MAINTENANCE AND MALICIOUS DAMAGE

A report submitted by the Head of Community and Regulatory Services advised the Committee on the approach taken by Housing and the Property Contracts Unit with regard to winter maintenance of Council housing. The report also considered the policy and practice taken by the Housing Service with regard to malicious damage of Housing Revenue Account (HRA) property.

Motion

That Committee notes the planned management actions summarised in the report in line with the approved Housing Revenue Budget 2011/12 and Capital Programme 2011/12 and requests that a report on front line services which reports on lessons learned, particularly in relation to comments about boarding up houses, is submitted to the Scrutiny Committee.

Moved by Councillor Donald Balsillie. Seconded by Councillor Harry McLaren.

Decision

The Committee agreed unanimously:

- To note the planned management actions summarised in the report in line with the approved Housing Revenue Budget 2011/12 and Capital Programme 2011/12;

- that a report on front line services which reports on lessons learned, particularly in relation to comments about boarding up houses, is submitted to the Scrutiny Committee.

Action

Head of Community and Regulatory Services

ENDS 11.15 am