

FALKIRK COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on THURSDAY 13 JUNE 2013 at 9.30 AM.

COUNCILLORS:

Baillie William Buchanan
Allyson Black
Charles MacDonald
John McLuckie
Baillie Joan Paterson
Provost Pat Reid (Convener)

OFFICERS:

Fiona Campbell, Head of Policy, Technology and Improvement
John Flannigan, Depute Chief Finance Officer
Colin Moodie, Depute Chief Governance Officer
Brian Pirie, Democratic Services Manager

ALSO ATTENDING:

Jim Cattnach (Police Scotland)

S5. APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

S6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

S7. MINUTE

Decision

The Minute of Meeting held on 16 May 2012 was approved.

S8. FEEDBACK FROM SCRUTINY WORKSHOP

The Committee considered a report by the Chief Governance Officer providing feedback from the scrutiny workshop held on 16 May 2013 and proposing that a pilot scrutiny panel be established prior to approval of the scrutiny plan.

Discussion at the workshop had covered the broader role of scrutiny in the new decision making structure; the future role or replacement of the Best Value Forum, potential areas for scrutiny and the manner in which scrutiny would be carried out under the new structure. The report set out the main areas of discussion highlighting two key outcomes (1) that there was a consensus on the merits of establishing a standing scrutiny panel, of 5 members (but open to all members to attend) to scrutinise service performance and (2) that a pilot scrutiny panel should be established to undertake scrutiny of an agreed topic to

allow roles and procedures to be developed and finalised in advance of the scrutiny plan being submitted to Council in September. There was a general agreement that a standing scrutiny panel would be established to scrutinise service performance.

The Committee considered the various proposed subject areas for scrutiny with a view to selecting one for the proposed pilot scrutiny panel and determined that a review of Citizens Advice Bureaux was the best fit.

Decision

The Committee agreed:-

- 1) to recommend to Council that a pilot scrutiny panel is established to scrutinise Citizens Advice Bureaux; and**
- 2) to ask Council, on this occasion, to determine the composition of the panel.**

S9. FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND

The committee considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services setting out proposals to scrutinise external organisations which the Council provides financial support to.

In 2012/13 the Council had allocated £5.6m to support external organisations in the area. Support over £20,000 or which was between £10,000 and £20,000 (but which was assessed as a high risk) required approval by Council. Details were given of the framework for monitoring these organisations by officers together with proposals for Following the Public Pound monitoring reports to be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee.

Decision

The Committee agreed that reports would be submitted by the monitoring Service in the following order:- Corporate and Neighbourhood Services and Development Services on 12 September 2013, Social Work Services on 10 October 2013 and Education Services at a later date.

S10. POLICE AND FIRE SCRUTINY

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services setting out a timetable for scrutinising performance reports from Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and enclosing draft report formats from each organisation for comment.

Council had delegated scrutiny of the performance of Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Services in respect of their local policy and fire plans to the Scrutiny Committee. It was proposed that each service would report quarterly performance at the meeting scheduled for 8 August, 14 November and in February 2014 on a date to be confirmed and that induction packs would be prepared for members in order to assist in the scrutiny process.

Decision

The Committee agreed that Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service will report quarterly performance at the meetings on 8 August 2013, 14 November 2013 and in February 2014.