

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: SCRUTINY PANEL UPDATE – PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY
Meeting: SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Date: 1 DECEMBER 2014
Author: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 It was agreed at Council that one of Scrutiny Panels to be established this year would be on the implementation and review of the Council's Participation and Engagement Strategy. In order to take this forward, members of the panel met to agree a clear scope, determine the programme of work and meetings that would be required to take this forward timeously.
- 1.2 This report updates Committee on the arrangements for this latest Scrutiny Panel and the review of guidance for future Scrutiny Panels.

2. SCOPE AND FORMAT OF THE PANEL

- 2.1 The Panel, chaired by Councillor Black and with other Members being Provost Reid and Councillor Murray met in mid-November to refine the scope of the Scrutiny Panel. This meeting considered the scope, meeting schedule and also the final reporting deadline. The scoping document and meeting schedule are attached to this report for approval.

3. GUIDANCE FOR PANELS

- 3.1 Members will recall that at the last meeting of the Scrutiny Committee it was agreed that the guidance for Scrutiny Panels would be reviewed to include the checklist of questions as outlined in the National Report published by the Accounts Commission on the use of Options Appraisal. This is only one aspect of this guidance. Members will recall that the current guidance was drafted following a workshop with Members and was intended to provide a basic guide on the key aspects of scrutiny. This guidance could potentially be more comprehensive in supporting Members and Officers through the work of the panels.
- 3.2 It is therefore proposed that following the conclusion of the work of this Scrutiny Panel a small group of Members, who have participated in the Scrutiny Panels, review the guidance in its totality to ensure it is as helpful as it can be. This guidance must reflect the views of Members and be helpful to them in ensuring proper scrutiny of defined issues.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 In line with the attached schedule, it is proposed that a robust scrutiny exercise is undertaken within a clearly defined timescale, with a view to reporting its findings back to this Committee in April, and then to the Executive in early summer 2015.

5. RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 **It is recommended that Members agree the scope and framework for the scrutiny panel on participation and engagement; and**
- 5.2 **Note the intended review of guidance for Members on scrutiny.**

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DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Date: 18 November 2014
Ref: ABC111413FC – Scrutiny Panel - CAB
Contact Name: Fiona Campbell EXT 6004

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone Falkirk 01324 506004 and ask for Fiona Campbell.