

FC78. SCRUTINY PLAN 2015

Council considered a report by the Chief Governance Officer inviting members to agree areas for detailed scrutiny as part of the annual scrutiny plan.

The Scrutiny Committee agreed, on 19 February 2015 (ref SC65), to recommend the following topics to Council for inclusion in the annual scrutiny plan:-

- the operation of the complaint system within the Council, in particular, the extent to which complaint outcomes are considered and lessons learned for the future. The scope of the scrutiny panel would include customer feedback as well as formal complaints, and
- outcomes for looked after children.

The committee also agreed to recommend that a third 'slot' in the annual plan would be left vacant and that area for scrutiny would be agreed by the committee with preference given to a subject suggested by the opposition members on the committee should those members participate in the scrutiny process.

Councillor C Martin, seconded by Baillie Paterson, moved that Council agrees:-

- (1) the following areas for scrutiny as part of the annual scrutiny plan-
 - (i) the operation of the complaint system within the Council, in particular, the extent to which complaint outcomes are considered and lessons learned for the future. The scope of the scrutiny panel would include customer feedback as well as formal complaints, and
 - (ii) outcomes for looked after children, and
- (2) that the Scrutiny Committee should agree a third area for scrutiny with preference given to a subject suggested by the opposition members on the committee, in the event that they participate in the scrutiny process.

As an amendment, Councillor Meiklejohn, seconded by Councillor Jackson, moved the following in substitution for clause (2) of the motion:-

There should be flexibility within the scrutiny plan in order to be able to react to emerging issues particularly in respect of the functions of the council.

In light of the predicted budget deficit over the next 3 years and the significant budget variation that has emerged over the course of this financial year, it is agreed that there should be a standing item placed in the scrutiny plan.

Each service would be required to bring forward a financial performance plan to the Scrutiny Committee to enable the effective monitoring of individual service budgets in order to deliver the greater financial efficiencies required by this Council.

Council then adjourned at 9.55a.m. to allow members to consider the motion and amendment and reconvened at 10.15a.m with members present as per the sederunt, with the exception of Councillor D Goldie.

In terms of Standing Order 22.4(i) a vote was taken by roll call, there being 31 members present with voting as undernoted:-

For the motion (16) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Patrick; Baillies Buchanan and Paterson; Councillors Black, Blackwood, G Goldie, Gow, MacDonald, McLuckie, Mahoney, C Martin, Dr C R Martin, Murray, Nicol and Nimmo.

For the amendment (15) – Councillors Alexander, Balfour, Bird, Carleschi, Chalmers, Coleman, Hughes, Jackson, McCabe, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Ritchie, Spears and Turner.

Decision

Council agreed the motion.

At this point, Councillor Black declared a non-financial interest in item FC80 as a civilian instructor with 1333 Spitfire Squadron, Grangemouth but did not consider that this required her to recuse herself from consideration of the item having regard to the objective test in the code of conduct.