



# **Agenda Item 7**

**Following the Public Pound**

Falkirk Council

**Title:** Following the Public Pound  
**Meeting:** Scrutiny Committee External  
**Date:** 1 December 2016  
**Submitted By:** Director of Corporate and Housing Services

**1. Purpose of Report**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to get agreement from Committee to make changes to the information provided as part of the Following the Public Pound process.

**2. Recommendation(s)**

**2.1 Committee is asked to agree:-**

**(1) that a new reporting template for Following the Public Pound reports be presented to a future Committee for approval.**

**3. Following the Public Pound**

3.1 The Council is required to ensure that it has appropriate arrangements in place to monitor the funds it awards by way of grants etc to external organisation. In 2004 Audit Scotland produced guidance on this which the Council has used to inform its current arrangements.

[Audit Scotland - Following the Public Pound 2004](#)

[Audit Scotland Following the Public Pound Follow Up Report - 2005](#)

3.2 For each organisation that receives funding over £10,000 or for which there is a significant risk, a monitoring officer will be appointed, a Joint Management Agreement established and regular monitoring meetings undertaken. This work is reported to Committee through a report on each organisation once a year i.e. Following the Public Pound Reports. The format of these reports was introduced in 2013 and has not changed much since then.

3.3 While the main purpose of those reports has been to make sure that public money was being used appropriately and for the purpose it was awarded, increasingly there are questions over affordability of external funding. The good quality services are acknowledged in most reports but important issues of affordability are not currently addressed within the current format.

3.4 It is therefore proposed that a review of the information presented to Members is undertaken with a revised form being introduced in the coming months. To take this forward, Officers will seek views from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector, elected Members and also look at best practice from other Councils.

#### **4. Consultation**

- 4.1 As part of process of developing a revised reporting framework, consultation with take place with key stakeholders.

#### **5. Implications**

##### **Financial**

- 5.1 While this review will not in itself have any financial implications its outcome should allow Members more information by which to make informed financial decisions.

##### **Resources**

- 5.2 Nil.

##### **Legal**

- 5.3 Nil.

##### **Risk**

- 5.4 There is a risk that if the Council is not carrying out its Following the Public Pound obligations properly, then public money may not be properly accounted for.

##### **Equalities**

- 5.5 Nil.

##### **Sustainability/Environmental Impact**

- 5.6 Nil.

#### **6. Conclusions**

- 6.1 The current arrangements for reporting on external organisations has been in place for some time. As the introduction of the current format has led to more scrutiny of those organisations, there is a need to review this to keep up with Members expectations. A newly revised form will be developed to ensure there is appropriate scrutiny of the money the Council awards to external organisations.

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#### **Appendices**

None

**List of Background Papers:**

The following papers were relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:

Nil