

The background of the slide features a large, light blue watermark of the Coat of Arms of the City of Edinburgh. The crest is a shield divided into four quarters. The top-left quarter shows a castle tower. The top-right quarter shows a stag's head with antlers. The bottom-left quarter shows a sailing ship on the water. The bottom-right quarter shows a crowned eagle with spread wings. Above the shield is a crown with four fleurs-de-lis. A ribbon at the bottom contains the motto 'ANE FOR A'.

Agenda Item 8

Scrutiny Plan

Falkirk Council

Title: Scrutiny Plan
Meeting: Falkirk Council
Date: 6 December 2017
Submitted By: Director of Corporate and Housing Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. This report recommends the scrutiny plan for the coming year and beyond.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. **It is recommended that Council:-**
agree the Scrutiny Plan for the coming year comprising the following three topics:-
- fly tipping;
 - housing allocations
 - anti social behaviour; and

notes the topics proposed for consideration in 2019.

3. Background

- 3.1. As part of the Council's scrutiny process, the Scrutiny Committee proposes an annual scrutiny plan to Council for approval. The plan sets out the topics that will be subject to in depth scrutiny by scrutiny panels over the coming year.
- 3.2. Council agreed at its meeting on 29 March 2017 to include fly tipping and associated issues in its Scrutiny Plan. A further 2 areas are recommended for in corporation in the plan to allow proper scrutiny and also taking account of Members' workloads.

4. Topics for Scrutiny

- 4.1. The Scrutiny Committee considered a number of potential areas for further scrutiny by a scrutiny panel. These include issues raised by the Scrutiny Committee, Scrutiny Committee (External) and Performance Panel.

- 4.2. The topics chosen for a scrutiny panel should be issues of substance. This allows the Panel to take evidence from services of the Council, from external partners and where appropriate key stakeholders with a view to making recommendations firstly to the Scrutiny Committee. The Scrutiny Committee may then report to the Executive on its recommendations following consideration of the panel's recommendations..
- 4.3. There were a number of topics that Committee considered as potential scrutiny plan items in addition to fly tipping. These are:
- Housing Allocations – how the process works and how it could improve.
 - Anti Social Behaviour – specifically looking at this from the point of view of residents. It is also proposed that this include looking at responses to incidents, communication and where does responsibility lie across partners for dealing with particular issues.
 - Pupil Equity Fund – the use and effect of the pupil equity fund was considered having been raised at the Performance Panel in October. The Scrutiny Committee agreed that while this should be a topic for future scrutiny it would be sensible to leave this until 2019 when the fund had been running for over a year.
 - External funding – alternative ways of funding and commissioning. The way the Council funds external organisations via grants has been questioned by Members. It was considered that a scrutiny panel could look at alternative methods of commissioning such services e.g. public social partnerships, tendering etc.
 - Member's enquiries and complaints – a report on this was considered by the Scrutiny Committee and it was agreed this would be taken forward out with the scrutiny panel process.
 - The cost of the planning process – this issue emerged following discussion at the Scrutiny Committee in August 2017 on the local government benchmarking information. A report on the costs of the planning process was called for and will be considered by the Committee in February 2018. The Scrutiny Committee however agreed to highlight to Council that this is a topic it might have been minded to recommend for inclusion on the plan but until the report is available it has insufficient information to make such a recommendation today.. The committee could therefore, after consideration of the report in February request that this topic is included in the plan.
 - Community involvement in the delivery of services – Work on this issue is being progressed through the community planning partnerships locality planning arrangements. In the coming months workshops etc. on co production with local communities are being organised.

The committee were minded that scrutiny of this topic would be premature. Scrutiny Committee recognised this as a critical issue for the Council but recognised this was still being developed by officers. Therefore the Committee proposes that this is considered for inclusion in the 2019 plan.

- Local Government Benchmarking Framework – Children’s Indicators – Again this was raised during the discussion on the Local Government Benchmarking overview report. A report from Children’s Services was considered by the Committee to have addressed the issues of concern and therefore a panel would not be necessary to consider this issue.

4.4. From the list above Council is asked to approve the following as the scrutiny plan for 2018.

- Fly tipping – potentially running from January to March
- Housing Allocations – potentially running from April to June
- Anti Social Behaviour – potentially running from September to November

4.5. The following topics are identified for consideration in the 2019 Plan

- Pupil Equity Fund
- Community involvement in the delivery of services.

5. Implications

Financial

5.1. Nil.

Resources

5.2. Council should consider the plan and its implications for services supporting the scrutiny panels. It should wherever possible ensure that there is a spread of activity across services.

Legal

5.3. Nil.

Risk

5.4. Nil.

Equalities

5.5. EPIAs should be considered when making recommendations on the outcomes of scrutiny panels to Committee.

Sustainability/Environmental Impact

5.6. Nil.

6. Conclusions

6.1. The Scrutiny Committee has considered a number of topics for inclusion in the scrutiny plan over the coming year. It is felt that the topics proposed are areas where improvements can be identified and made and as such are appropriate for taking forward.

Director of Corporate and Housing Services.

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Date: 30 November 2017

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:

- none