

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 lion passant guardant. Above the shield is a crown with four fleurs-de-lis. A ribbon scrolls across the bottom of the shield with the motto 'ANE FOR A'.

# **Agenda Item 11**

## **Scrutiny Plan 2020**

**Falkirk Council**

**Title:** Scrutiny Plan 2020  
**Meeting:** Falkirk Council  
**Date:** 4 December 2019  
**Author:** Director of Corporate and Housing Services

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to propose a Scrutiny Plan for 2020 for Council's approval.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 **Council is invited to agree that the Scrutiny Plan for 2020 will contain two areas for review – Pupil Equity Funding and a second area which will be recommended to the Council by the Scrutiny Committee on 24 June 2020.**

**3. Background**

- 3.1 In terms of Standing Orders the Scrutiny Committee will develop the annual Scrutiny Plan of the Council and submit it to Council for agreement.

**4. Considerations**

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Committee develops its proposed Plan by requesting reports on areas which it considers may be capable of a 'deep dive' review by a scrutiny panel. Having considered and discussed the reports the Committee then determines which areas should be included in the Plan it recommends to Council.
- 4.2 The Committee indicated to Council in December 2017 that it was minded to review in 2019 the Council's arrangements for Pupil Equity Funding and the outcomes of the Funding in regard to closing the attainment gap. However the Scrutiny Panels established to carry out the reviews contained in the Scrutiny Plan for 2018 continued to work into 2019 and as a consequence the Committee agreed, on 14 November 2019, to recommend to Council that this be carried out in 2020 as part of the Scrutiny Plan.
- 4.3 The Committee is recommending that the Scrutiny Plan for 2020 consists of 2 reviews. This recognises the commitment required by members and officers to run an effective Scrutiny Panel.

4.4 The 2nd slot in the plan is currently vacant with no recommendation being made to Council at this time by the Committee. The Committee will consider reports on the following areas during the first half of 2020 and make a recommendation to Council on 24 June 2020:-

- Council of the Future arrangements – what are the governance arrangements, and what is the role and effectiveness of the Board?
- Community Empowerment and Community involvement in the delivery of services – what support and guidance is offered to community groups re CE (for example in regard to CAT of community halls)? What work is being completed in regard to the coproduction of services?
- Community Learning and Development (CLD) - review its establishment/comparison with previous establishment: functions - what does it do, why does it do it and how has this changed over the course of recent redesigns? (e.g. loss of detached youth workers)
- Bullying and racism policies in schools – implementation and management thereof.

4.5 Council has the ability to amend the Plan to take account of business recommended to it by the Committee during the year so in agreeing a Plan at this stage containing 2 areas for review Council does not prevent Council altering the size and content of the Plan should the need arise during the course of the year.

## **5. Consultation**

5.1 There has been no consultation on this report.

## **6. Implications**

### **Financial**

6.1 There are no financial implications arising from the report.

### **Resources**

6.2 There are no additional resource implications arising from the report. Panels are be supported by officers from the lead Service and from Governance.

### **Legal**

6.3 There are no legal implications arising from the report.

### **Risk**

6.4 There are no risk implications arising from the report.

## **Equalities**

- 6.5 An equality and poverty impact assessment was not carried out.

## **Sustainability/Environmental Impact**

- 6.6 No sustainability assessment has been completed as part of compiling the report.

## **7. Conclusions**

- 7.1 A key role of the Scrutiny Committee is to identify and recommend to Council subjects for inclusion in the Scrutiny Plan. It is proposed that the Committee recommends that the Plan for 2020 contains two subjects. One of these will be recommended today, with the second being identified in the first half of 2020 and recommended to Council in June 2020. The Committee will use the second half of the year to identify areas for inclusion in the 2021 Scrutiny Plan. The Plan can be altered by Council.

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**Date:** 23 November 2019

**Appendices:** None

**List of Background Papers:** None