

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject: ANNUAL SCRUTINY PLAN**  
**Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL**  
**Date: 25 September 2013**  
**Author: CHIEF GOVERNANCE OFFICER**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to invite Council to agree areas for scrutiny as part of the Annual Scrutiny Plan.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 At its meeting on 12 September 2013, the Scrutiny Committee considered the attached report on the Annual Scrutiny Plan.
- 2.2 In considering areas for scrutiny, the Committee acknowledged the experiences of the pilot scrutiny panel to date:- namely, that the process of scrutiny can be demanding on officer and member time. With that in mind, the Committee agreed to recommend that no more than one scrutiny panel should operate at any one time, but that there should be scope to add further panels, to a maximum of two operating at any one time should members' availability increase at any stage.
- 2.3 Members considered those areas for scrutiny which had been discussed at previous meetings and at the workshop held in May together with an additional suggestion which had emerged outwith the Committee discussions. It was agreed to recommend to Council that the following areas be scrutinised as part of the Annual Scrutiny Plan:-
- (1) the appointment of elected members to outside organisations and the process for reporting to Council; and
  - (2) the adequacy of consultation with the public and community engagement more generally.
- 2.4 Additionally, the Committee to agree that a third scrutiny 'slot' should be included in the Annual Plan but that it be held vacant. The area for scrutiny would be agreed by the Committee with preference given to a subject suggested by the opposition members on the Committee if those members participated in the scrutiny process.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Council is invited to agree:-**

- 3.1 that no more than one scrutiny panel will operate at any one time subject to the proviso that the maximum can be increased to two at the discretion of the Scrutiny Committee;**
- 3.2 The following areas for scrutiny as part of the Annual Scrutiny Plan:-**
  - (i) the appointment of elected members to outside organisations and the process for reporting to Council,**
  - (ii) the adequacy of consultation with the public and community engagement more generally; and**
- 3.3 that the Scrutiny Committee should agree a third area for scrutiny with preference given to a subject suggested by opposition members in the event that they participate in the scrutiny process.**

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**Chief Governance Officer**  
**Date: 16<sup>th</sup> September 2013**

**Contact Officer: Brian Pirie, Democratic Services Manager**