

In accordance with his declaration of interest, Provost Reid left the Chair and the meeting and took no part in consideration of the following item of business. Councillor MacDonald assumed the role of Convener. Provost Reid did not re-enter the meeting.

S6. FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND - UPDATE - CENTRAL SCOTLAND REGIONAL EQUALITY COUNCIL (CSREC)

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services providing an update on the Following the Public Pound report presented at the meeting of the Committee on 12 September 2013 (Paragraph S21 refers) on the operation of Central Scotland Regional Equality Council (CSREC). At that meeting it was agreed that an update report be presented within 6 months on the progress of the organisation in meeting its objectives and outcomes.

Celia Sweeney provided a general overview of the report including the funding of the organisation totalling £15,200 and associated 'in kind' support. The scrutiny of the organisation had identified it as medium risk. Its core funding acted as a catalyst for attracting external funding of £159k. The organisation had however experienced Board and staffing issues over the financial year 2012/13 resulting in concerns in relation to its leadership and governance arrangements.

The report highlighted the development of a wide range of projects up to the period 31 December 2013. The challenges facing the organisation however included:-

- The current inability to demonstrate significant partnership working with Stirling and Clackmannanshire Councils;
- The development of the organisation's core business;
- That effect of reduced core funding on the organisation's ability to attract and draw down new funding; and
- The recent changes to the Board and the impact on the organisation's leadership and governance arrangements.

The Committee discussed the importance of good governance arrangements, partnerships with other organisations, work within schools and anti sectarianism work organised throughout the Council area.

Decision

The Committee noted the report and that a future report would be presented to the Committee in June.