

The background of the slide features a large, faint, light blue watermark of the City of Edinburgh Council Coat of Arms. The coat of arms 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. Below the shield is a ribbon with the motto 'A'NE FOR A'.

Agenda Item 7

Workplan and Scrutiny Plan 2020

Falkirk Council

Title: Workplan and Scrutiny Plan 2020
Meeting: Scrutiny Committee
Date: 10 September 2020
Author: Director of Corporate and Housing Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the progress of the committee's workplan in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and to seek committee's views on topics for the 2020/1 scrutiny plan.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The committee is invited to

- (1) agree the revised workplan for 2020 as set out in the appendix to the report, and**
- (2) identify areas for consideration as potential items for inclusion in the 2021 scrutiny plan.**

3. Background

- 3.1 In line with the Standing Orders the Scrutiny Committee develops the annual Scrutiny Plan of the Council which is then submitted to Council for agreement.
- 3.2 The committee had, in December 2019, recommended to Council a 2 item scrutiny plan for 2020. The first part of the plan would be a review of the Council's arrangements for Pupil Equity Funding and this would be carried out by a scrutiny panel during the first half of 2020. The second 'slot' in the proposed plan was unfilled, with the committee intending to recommend a second topic to Council at its meeting on 24 June 2020 following consideration of a number of subjects in early 2020. With Council having agreed the proposed plan, the committee agreed in January 2020 a workplan which would allow it to consider reports on the following, with a view to one being recommended to Council for the second slot:-
- 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 Community Asset Transfer of community

halls)? What work is being completed in regard to the co-production 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.

3.3 It was intended that as the year progressed the committee would identify areas for scrutiny as part of its consideration of items for inclusion in the 2021 scrutiny plan.

3.4 The committee had indicated in 2019 that areas for consideration in 2020 for the 2021 Plan would include:-

- Hubs – high level report on the 2 hubs in operation with a potential review once the 3rd has been established.
- Expectations and outcomes of the Closer to Home Project.

4. Considerations

4.1 The Committee set up the Pupil Equity Funding scrutiny panel in January 2020. The panel, chaired by Councillor Flynn with Councillors Garner and Blackwood, met on 27 February to set out its workplan. Reports had been scheduled for consideration at the April and June meetings in accordance with the workplan.

4.2 However, with the onset of the coronavirus pandemic in March and the subsequent lockdown on 23 March, Council has focussed its resources on responding to the impact of the pandemic and in supporting the community. Resources have focussed on front line services and its response. The committee programme was suspended for the period March to August with decision making focussing on emergency matters, through the Emergency Executive, Planning Committee and Licensing Board.

4.3 With the Council's focus on response and recovery there has been a hiatus in the preparation of reports for committees and a backlog has been created in terms of committee workload. This is particularly so for the Scrutiny Committee in terms of both the scrutiny plan and the general scrutiny of service performance. This first meeting of the committee, however, presents the committee with the opportunity to reassess its workload and the planned reviews in light of the impact of the pandemic. Rather than progress with the business identified in 2019 the committee may wish to consider alternative areas for inclusion in the 2021 scrutiny plan which focus on the Council's response to the pandemic for example.

- 4.4 A revised workplan is proposed for the final meeting of the year on 12 November. This is set out in the appendix. The scrutiny panel looking at PEF has been reconvened and will report to this meeting. There will be no second slot review in 2020. Committee will be asked in November to agree items for the 2021 scrutiny plan for recommendation to Council. These may be drawn from the list agreed in 2019 or if committee is so minded alternative areas, such as those suggested above relating to the Council's response to the pandemic. Should committee agree any new areas reports will be submitted to the November meeting for further consideration ahead of a recommendation being made to Council on 4 December.

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 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 The coronavirus pandemic has had a traumatic effect on the country. It has affected all areas of society and impacted on the work life of businesses and public services. The workplan set out by the scrutiny committee to manage its workload in 2020 has not been delivered because the Council's focus since early 2020 has been on response and recovery. This report provides an opportunity for the committee to look forward to the scrutiny plan for 2021 and to consider its priorities in regard to that plan.

Director of Corporate and Housing Services

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Date: 31 August 2020

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – revised workplan for 2020

List of Background Papers: None

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2020

Meeting	Business	Author	Changes to original plan
2 April	Monitoring and reporting on the Corporate Plan — One Council — Partnership	Director of Corporate and Housing Services	Moved to September meeting.
	Council of the Future arrangements	Director of Corporate and Housing Services	This will be included in Scrutiny Plan update in September meeting.
	Bullying and racism policies in schools — implementation and management thereof	Director of Children's Services	This will be included in Scrutiny Plan update in September meeting.
4 June	Corporate Plan update	Director of Corporate and Housing Services	To be determined.
	Review of Hubs	Director of Corporate and Housing Services	This will be included in Scrutiny Plan update in September meeting.
	Community Empowerment and Community Involvement in the delivery of services.	Director of Corporate and Housing Services	This will be included in Scrutiny Plan update in September meeting.
	Update on Scrutiny Plan	Director of Corporate and Housing Services	Moved to September meeting.
	LGBF	Director of Corporate and Housing Services	Moved to September meeting.
	Review of Community Learning and Development (CLD)	Director of Children's Services	This will be included in Scrutiny Plan update in September meeting.

<p>10 September</p>	<p>Monitoring and reporting on the Corporate Plan — One Council — People</p> <p>Complaints Annual Report</p> <p>Summary of Local Government in Scotland Challenges and Performance 2020</p> <p>Monitoring and reporting on the Corporate Plan – One Council – Partnership</p> <p>LGBF</p> <p>Scrutiny Plan Update – this will identify those reports that were asked for and ask Committee if it wants, in light of Covid, to look at what it wants to propose to Council for 2021</p>	<p>Director of Corporate and Housing Services</p> <p>Director of Corporate and Housing Services</p> <p>Director of Corporate and Housing Services</p> <p>Director of Corporate and Housing Services</p> <p>Director of Corporate and Housing Services</p> <p>Director of Corporate and Housing Services</p>	<p>Moved to November meeting.</p> <p>Moved to November meeting.</p> <p>To be determined.</p>
<p>12 November</p>	<p>Monitoring and reporting on the Corporate Plan – One Council – People</p> <p>Monitoring and reporting on the Corporate Plan — Place</p> <p>Anti-Social Behaviour review - 12 month update</p> <p>Complaints Annual Report</p> <p>Scrutiny Plan 2021</p>	<p>Director of Corporate and Housing Services</p> <p>Director of Corporate and Housing Services</p> <p>Director of Corporate and Housing Services</p> <p>Director of Corporate and Housing Services</p> <p>Director of Corporate and Housing Services</p>	<p>Moved to first meeting in 2021.</p>