

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

GOVERNANCE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 29 MAY 2009 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillors Tom Cook, Helen Coffey, Maureen McKay, John Campbell, Alan Brown, Stuart Finlayson, Jimmy Kelly and Elaine Dinwoodie.

ATTENDING: Martin Rose, Head of Human Resources; David Mitchell, Head of Legal, Procurement and Regulatory Services; Andrew Sutherland, Head of Service: Schools; Robin Baker, Financial Controller and Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Willie Coffey, Eric Ross and Drew Filson.

CHAIR: Councillor Tom Cook, Chair.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

1. There were submitted and approved as a correct record, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 1 May 2009 (circulated).

MATTERS ARISING UPDATE REPORT

2. There was submitted and noted a report dated 18 May 2009 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which provided the Committee with a consolidated response to information requests made by Members at previous meetings.

SCRUTINY

SCHOOL LEAVERS DESTINATIONS 2007/2008

3. There was submitted a report dated 14 May 2009 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the destinations of leavers from East Ayrshire schools in 2007/2008, as published by the Scottish Government.

Councillor Maureen McKay joined the meeting at this point.

During discussion, the Head of Service: Schools responded to questions and issues raised by Members relating to the following matters, namely:-

- the mentoring programme/sessions for pupils under the More Choices: More Chances Strategy and the funding available for this purpose;
- the destinations of Looked After Children;
- the destinations of leavers from Doon Academy;
- the definition of "sustainability" as applied to the destinations achieved by school leavers;
- the mechanisms in place to track school leavers' destinations; and

- recognition of the significance and importance of early intervention action within the context of the 16+ Learning Choices Programme and the More Choice: More Chances Strategy.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the development to date of the 16+ Learning Choices and the More Choices: More Chances Strategy;
- (ii) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services continue to provide an annual report to Committee on school leavers' destinations, including feedback on the processes and outcomes associated with the mentoring programmes within the More Choices: More Chances Strategy;
- (iii) that the Head of Service: Schools provide information to Members of the Committee on the leavers' destinations for Looked After Children; the number of Looked After Children accessing the mentoring sessions available under the More Choices: More Chances Strategy; and the destinations of leavers from Doon Academy for the previous five years; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the terms of the report.

**EMPLOYEE STATISTICAL INFORMATION: JANUARY TO MARCH 2009:
QUARTER 1**

4. There was submitted and noted a report dated 12 May 2009 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which provided a range of employee statistics including Staffing Watch and Absence for the Council for the period 1 January to 31 March 2009.

During discussion, the Head of Human Resources provided responses to questions and issues raised by Members relative to the following matters, namely:-

- an explanation for the decrease of 105.8 in the number of full time equivalent employees of the Council, between March 2008 and March 2009;
- the reasons for the use of supply teachers who are aged 65 years or over; and
- the number of referrals to occupational health of staff within the Department of Educational and Social Services arising from stress/debility factors.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Head of Human Resources provide to Members of the Committee information on the cost savings arising from the indicated reduction in the number of full-time equivalent employees between March 2008 and March 2009;
- (ii) that the next quarterly report of this kind provide comment on the comparatively high level of referrals to occupational health of staff from the Department of Educational and Social Services due to stress/debility, having regard to the appropriate statistical context; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the terms of the report.

AWARDING OF CONTRACTS: 21 MARCH TO 15 MAY 2009

5. There was submitted and noted a report dated 14 May 2009 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which provided, for information, details of tenders which had been accepted on behalf of the Council for the period 21 March to 15 May 2009.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Head of Legal, Procurement and Regulatory Services provide further information to Members (a) on the evaluation process and the award criteria relating to the contract for the installation and maintenance of automated public conveniences, particularly with regard to specification, user friendliness and the added value criteria; (b) with regard to the contract for patching B, C and U roads - South Area, on sustainability of the lowest offer received and the contractual administration/monitoring processes in place within the Roads Division to ensure contract compliance particularly in respect of quality; and (c) with regard to the contract for the seasonal pantomime 2009-2011, on the award criteria and also the financial criteria in respect of cost and income to the Council; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

REVIEW TOPIC - REASONS FOR THE LEVEL OF COMPLAINTS ON CONTRACT UPGRADES TO THE COUNCIL'S HOUSING STOCK UNDER THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME

6. There was submitted a report dated 18 May 2009 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which presented, for consideration, the Work Review Programme relative to the review topic "Reasons for the Level of Complaints on Contract Upgrades to the Council's Housing Stock under the Capital Programme", which had been selected for review in 2009/2010.

It was agreed to approve the Work Programme for this topic review, as set out in the Appendix to the report, subject to recognition that the programme may change in the light of operational requirements.

The meeting terminated at 1107 hours.