

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

GOVERNANCE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 18 JANUARY 2008 AT 1000 HRS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillors Tom Cook, Helen Coffey, Willie Coffey, John Knapp, Alan Brown, Stuart Finlayson, Barney Menzies and Drew Filson.

ATTENDING: Fiona Lees, Chief Executive; Graham Short, Executive Director of Educational and Social Services; William Stafford, Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services; Alex McPhee, Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management; Bill Walkinshaw, Head of Democratic Services; David Mitchell, Head of Legal, Procurement and Regulatory Services; Julie McGarry, Administration Manager; and Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Maureen McKay and John Campbell.

CHAIR: Councillor Tom Cook, Chair.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to this, the first meeting of the Committee following the Festive break and wished everyone well for the coming year.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

2. There were submitted and approved as a correct record, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Governance and Scrutiny Committee held on 21 December 2007 (circulated).

MATTERS ARISING

2.1 Governance and Scrutiny Workshop

The Chair advised, and it was noted, that the 2008 Governance and Scrutiny Workshop would take place on the afternoon of Thursday 24 January 2008, at which Members would have the opportunity to consider topics suggested for review, as well as any other areas for review, together with any other general issues; and receive an update on progress with the ongoing review of the Council's Waste Recycling Policy/technical evaluation of the Kerbside Recycling Scheme and discuss the way forward in respect of this review. The workshop would be preceded in the morning by Stage 2 Training on the practicalities and techniques associated with the Council's Governance and Scrutiny procedures, and a programme for the day would be circulated to Members later on Friday 18 January 2008.

2.2 Redesigning of Steelworks at the CCTV Extension

The Chair advised, and it was noted, that the Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management had prepared a written response to the enquiry made by Councillor Eric Ross at the last meeting regarding the redesigning of the steelworks at the CCTV extension at Council Headquarters, and this had now been circulated to all Members of the Committee.

STRATEGIC SELF-ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT

2. There was submitted a report dated 5 December 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management which (i) provided Committee with a progress report on areas for improvement that had been identified through both the Service Level Strategic Self-Assessments of Performance and the Corporate Level Strategic Self-Assessment of Performance, which had been undertaken in preparation for the 2006 Best Value and Community Planning Audit; (ii) sought agreement that the small number of improvement actions yet to be achieved at a Service Level be remitted to the appropriate Executive Director and brought to a conclusion; and (iii) sought agreement that the improvement actions outstanding at a Corporate Level continue as part of a new corporate level assessment to be carried out early in 2008.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note, as verbally intimated by the Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management at the meeting, the addition of two further areas under paragraph 5.1.3 of the report, namely EAGER reviews and "How Good is our School?", the detail of progress in these areas being set out in the Appendix to the report;
- (ii) to note the progress being made in the implementation of the improvement areas identified in the Strategic Self-Assessments of Performance;
- (iii) that the Service Level Strategic Self-Assessments be discontinued, and that it be remitted to Executive Directors to bring outstanding actions to a conclusion;
- (iv) that outstanding actions from the Corporate Level Self-Assessment be carried forward, and included in a new Corporate Level Self-Assessment to be carried out early in 2008;
- (v) to note that reports on staffing/employee information and management which had previously been submitted to the former Chairs' Monitoring Group, as referred to in the Appendix to the report, would appropriately be incorporated within this Committee's Work Programme;
- (vi) on the matter having been raised by Councillor Barney Menzies, that the Head of Legal, Procurement and Regulatory Services would report back to Cabinet or this Committee, as appropriate, on the options for external agencies having the opportunity to benefit from the Council's procurement arrangements; and
- (vii) otherwise, to note the terms of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1018 hrs.