

COMMUNITY SERVICES STANDING SCRUTINY PANEL.

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,
on 2nd November 2011 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors John Allan (Chair), Ian Douglas, Ann Galbraith, Bill Grant, Hugh Hunter, Elaine Little, Alec Oattes and Philip Saxton.

Attending: H. Garland, Executive Director – Children and Community; V. Andrews, Head of Legal and Administration; P. Linton, Performance and Change Management Manager; C. Gardner, Senior Strategic Planning and Performance Management Officer; L. Fyfe, Community Safety Manager; G. Collins, Community Engagement Manager; D. Burns, Manager (Housing Developing and Monitoring); A. Greenwood, Asset Co-ordinator; C. Bishop, Performance and Business Change Manager; A. MacLeod, Performance and Business Manager; and A. Gerrish, Committee Administrative Officer.

1. Items for Call-in.

The Panel noted that there had been no call-ins for this meeting.

2. Minutes of previous meeting.

The Minutes of the previous meeting of 21st September 2011 (issued) were submitted and noted.

3. Progress Against the Council Corporate Plan to 30th September 2011.

There was submitted a report (issued) of 18th October 2011 by the Head of Policy, Performance and Communication outlining the progress which had been achieved to date against the Council Corporate Plan in relation to the Directorate objectives and tasks which had fallen within this Panel's remit.

A full discussion took place and various points were made by Members of the Panel in relation to the following Directorate Tasks:-

- CCD13.03 – Implement changes resulting from climate change, in relation to reducing fuel poverty, querying the difference in costs for householders using prepay meters, the amount of households in South Ayrshire that were currently in fuel poverty and if it had changed during the last two years;
- DEPA001 – Achieve the Scottish Housing Quality Standard by 2015, querying the statement of 'weather dependant projects were now completed' and an update on this amber rated task had been requested;
- DEPA006 – Implement Improvement Plan from Housing Repairs Service Review, querying the processes and progress of this review;
- CCD02.02 – Review the Youth Strategy and establish links with other strategies, where a briefing note on this amber rated task had been requested;

- CCD01.01 – Extend and enhance the opportunities for young people to gain accreditation for wider achievement, as to whether more detail of what the Council was doing to maximise the opportunities for young people to gain work experience could be given;
- CCD01.02 – Develop arrangements to assess individual pupils' achievements and produce informative reports for parents/carers, where an update of this amber rated task had been requested;
- CCD01.03 – Implement Curriculum for Excellence in South Ayrshire Schools, noted the introduction of the 33 period week and requested a full appraisal be made at the end of the year as to the impact that changes were having with pupils;
- CCD01.05 – Expand opportunities for young people to gain skills for work and skills for life as part of the senior phase in schools and noted that this provided an answer to the question posed at CCD01.01;
- CCD01.09 – Provide grants to pupils as appropriate, querying the arrangements for the payment of grants;
- CCD05.01 – Secure continuous improvement in schools, where a further update had been requested on why the Internal Audit Team were still using the house at Ayr Grammar School and an update on the future plans for Ayr Grammar;
- CCD04.02 – Implement National Child Protection Guidelines and West of Scotland Child Protection procedures, querying the progress and completion date;
- CCD04.04 – Reconfigure service to protect unborn children, querying the liaison with the NHS on this issue;
- CCD09.03 – Reconfigure Mental Health Services, querying the liaison with the NHS on this issue;
- CCD09.08 – Develop, implement and review the Multi- Agency Partnership to Tackle Violence against Women and Children, where a further update on this amber rated task had been requested and clarification sought on the increase of domestic abuse alarms;
- CCD14.02 – Implement the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy, where a further update on this amber rated task had been requested on the integration of the Anti Social Behaviour team into Housing;
- CS09b01.03 – Establish set of performance standards for delivery of Civic Government and Liquor Licensing, where a further update on progress to develop standards on this amber rated task had been requested; and
- CS09b01.04 – Monitor Civic Government Licensing (Taxis/Private Hires and others) to ensure efficient service and support the Taxi forum, concerns expressed on who had responsibility for a scheme whereby a taxi was operating a bus service and queried the extensive use of taxis for school transport.

Decided:

- (1) to note the progress achieved to date against the Council Corporate Plan as detailed through the updates provided against its Directorate Plans to 30th September 2011; and
- (2) to agree that in relation to
 - (a) Directorate Task DEPA001 – requested that the Asset Co-ordinator
 - (i) keep local Members informed of progress over the work on the roofs of the high flats in Ayr; and
 - (ii) provide a list of the 40 houses being modernised in the Girvan area to local Members;
 - (b) Directorate Task DEPA006 – requested a progress report on the Review of the Improvement Plan for the Housing Repair Service be submitted to this Panel in February 2012;
 - (c) Directorate Task CCD01.1 – requested that an update over the Council's intake of apprentices and the work being done to offer young people work experience within the Council be provided by Human Resources and Organisational Development to the Panel in February 2012;
 - (d) Directorate Task CCD01.03 – that a report would be submitted to this Panel in September 2012 in connection with the introduction of the 33 period week in schools as to the impact on pupil attendance etc;
 - (e) Directorate Task CCD05.01 – requested the Leadership Panel to instruct appropriate Officers to seek alternative accommodation for Internal Audit, to allow the Grammar School House to be made available for the School as from 31st December 2011; and
 - (f) Directorate Task CS09b01.04 – that the Head of Legal and Administration would investigate further the licensing issues around taxi bus operations, in particular in relation to the licensing requirements on the vehicle itself.

4. Panel Work Programme for 2012/13.

The Panel heard the Executive Director – Children and Community in relation to the current Work Programme of this Panel and whether or not it should consider further areas for Review at this time.

Decided: to agree not to put forward a work programme for 2012/13 as there were still outstanding issues that the Panel required to deal with prior to the Council Elections in May 2012.

The meeting ended at 11.45 a.m.