

PERFORMANCE AND REVIEW SCRUTINY FORUM

Minutes of meeting held via Confero and in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 5 December 2023

Chair:

Councillor Joe Fagan

Councillors Present:

Councillor John Anderson, Councillor Maureen Chalmers, Councillor Gerry Convery (Depute), Councillor Maureen Devlin, Councillor Richard Lockhart, Councillor Katy Loudon, Councillor Davie McLachlan, Councillor Kirsten Robb, Councillor John Ross

Attending:

Community and Enterprise Resources

A Brown, Head of Enterprise and Sustainable Development; F Carlin, Head of Planning and Regulatory Services; K Carr, Head of Facilities, Waste and Grounds; C Park, Head of Roads, Transportation and Fleet Services

Education Resources

D Dickson, Education Operations Manager

Finance and Corporate Resources

P Manning, Executive Director; T Little, Head of Communications and Strategy; K McLeod, Administration Assistant; S McLeod, Administration Officer; L Marshall, Finance Adviser; N Reid, Improvement and Community Planning Manager

Housing and Technical Resources

L Hayes, Performance and Support Adviser

Social Work Resources

M Kane, Senior Development Manager

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Performance and Review Scrutiny Forum held on 3 October 2023 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

The Forum decided: that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

3 Council Plan Connect 2022 to 2027 - Quarter 2 Progress Report 2023/2024

A report dated 9 November 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the progress of 'Connect', the Council Plan 2022 to 2027, at the Quarter 2 stage of 2023/2024.

'Connect' detailed the Council's vision, values, priorities and outcomes to be delivered in the 5 year period of the Plan. Progress made on 'Connect' outcomes was summarised in the report. Of the 68 measures nominated for reporting against the Plan:-

- ◆ 3 projects had been completed
- ◆ 44 had met their timescale or target as per expectations
- ◆ 8 had minor slippage against timescale or minor shortfall against target
- ◆ 1 had major slippage against timescale or major shortfall against target
- ◆ 12 were contextual or would be reported on at a later stage

The 'Connect' Performance Report for Quarter 2, 2023/2024, covering the period to the end of September 2023, was attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

To aid scrutiny, additional analysis of the measures that had been identified as 'contextual' or 'report later' in the Quarter 4 Progress Report 2022/2023, considered by the Forum at its meeting on 8 August 2023, had been undertaken. Of the 3 measures which had been identified as 'contextual' or 'report later':-

- ◆ 1 was a contextual measure for which figures and narrative had been provided in the Quarter 4 Progress Report 2022/2023 and no further action had been required
- ◆ 1 measure related to the reduction in the Council's carbon emissions achieved by March 2023, for which figures had not been available at 8 August 2023, and had now met its timescale or target as per expectations
- ◆ 1 measure related to the percentage of Council dwellings that were Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing 2 (ESSH2) and remained as 'report later' as the Scottish Government continued to review the ESSH2 standards to realign them with the target for net zero heat in houses from 2045

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council had been forced to suspend or reduce a number of services that could not be continued in full due to government advice. The Council had also been obliged to redirect resources so that it could deliver vital new services and supports for individuals, communities and businesses and, despite the return of services through the Council's Recovery Plan, there remained an inevitable impact on performance in some areas.

On a point raised regarding the Child Poverty Commitment, officers undertook to provide the information requested to the members.

The Forum decided:

- (1) that the 'Connect' Quarter 2 Progress Report 2023/2024, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be noted;
- (2) that the progress and key achievements made in terms of the reporting measures contained in 'Connect', as detailed in the report, be noted; and
- (3) that the additional scrutiny of the updated status of those measures identified as 'contextual' or 'report later' in the 'Connect' Quarter 4 Progress Report 2022/2023, as summarised in the report and detailed at Appendix 2 of the report, be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 8 August 2023 (Paragraph 3)]

4 Resource Plans – Red and Amber Results at Quarter 2, 2023/2024

A report dated 9 October 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on performance measures where results at Quarter 2, 2023/2024 had been recorded as either 'red' (there had been major slippage against timescale or major shortfall against target) or 'amber' (there had been minor slippage against timescale or minor shortfall against target).

Across all Resources, 28 out of 272 measures relating to Council priorities had a status of 'amber' and 1 had a status of 'red'. The remaining 243 measures (89%) had a status of 'blue' (project completed), 'green' (the timescale or target had been met in line with expectations) or 'report later' (the information was not yet available to allow officers to say whether the target had been reached or not but would be reported when available).

For 2023/2024, there had been an increase in the number of 'red' and 'amber' measures reported in comparison to the previous year. This was due, in part, to a continuing and comprehensive review of measures and targets which had resulted in greater clarity when assigning measures with the appropriate status.

An explanation on progress to date, the circumstances which had determined the 'red' or 'amber' status, including unforeseen changes in timescales, circumstances, or work being underway but not yet complete, and progress updates providing revised timescales for completion, where relevant, as well as management actions, were provided in Appendix 1 to the report.

Officers responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report.

On points raised regarding the percentage of reports being submitted to the Children's Reporter within timescale and the number of road casualties in South Lanarkshire during 2023, officers undertook to provide the information requested to the members.

The Forum decided: that the report be noted.

5 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.