

PERFORMANCE AND REVIEW SCRUTINY FORUM

Minutes of meeting held in Committee Room 2, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 18 February 2020

Chair:

Councillor John Ross

Councillors Present:

Councillor Alex Allison, Councillor Maureen Chalmers, Councillor Gerry Convery, Councillor Peter Craig, Councillor Maureen Devlin, Councillor Joe Fagan, Councillor Mark McGeever (*substitute for Councillor Brown*), Councillor Jared Wark

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Robert Brown, Councillor Katy Loudon

Attending:

Chief Executive's Service

C Sneddon, Chief Executive

Community and Enterprise Resources

S Clelland, Head of Fleet and Environmental Services; S Keating, Property Development Manager; G Mackay, Head of Roads and Transportation Services; A McKinnon, Head of Facilities, Waste and Grounds Services; T Meikle, Area Manager, Planning and Building Standards Services (Cambuslang/Rutherglen and East Kilbride)

Education Resources

D Dickson, Education Operations Manager

Finance and Corporate Resources

P Manning, Executive Director; T Little, Head of Communications and Strategy; P MacRae, Administration Officer; N Reid, Improvement and Community Planning Manager

Housing and Technical Resources

L Hayes, Performance and Support Adviser

Social Work Resources

L Purdie, Head of Children and Justice Services

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 26 November 2019 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Best Value Assurance Report – Action Plan Update

A report dated 23 January 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the progress of the Best Value Assurance Report (BVAR) action plan.

The Council's BVAR had been published by the Accounts Commission on 28 March 2019. At its meeting on 26 June 2019, the Council had considered the BVAR and approved an action plan with 16 high level actions addressing each of the recommendations contained in the BVAR.

Progress against those actions was detailed in the appendix to the report. Of the 16 actions:-

- ♦ 13 had been identified as green, (the timescale or target had been met in line with expectations)
- ♦ 2 had been identified as amber, (there had been minor slippage against timescale or minor shortfall against target)
- ♦ 1 had been identified as red, (there had been major slippage against timescale or major shortfall against target)

Progress against specific actions would be reported to the relevant committees throughout 2020.

The Forum decided: that the report be noted.

4 Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) – 2018/2019 Results and Action Plan

A report dated 23 January 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the Scottish Local Government Benchmarking (LGBF) results for 2018/2019.

The LGBF compared spend/cost, performance and customer satisfaction results over several years and between similar councils. It comprised a number of performance indicators across a range of services

Information on the Council's LGBF data and results for 2018/2019, together with comparative data for 2017/2018 and 2016/2017, was provided in Appendix 1 to the report. This information also showed whether the Council's performance in 2018/2019 had improved, remained the same or declined compared to the previous year and how the Council's performance compared with the Scottish average and against Family Group results.

At a local level, each council was required to publish its results at the same time as the publication of the national results by the Improvement Service. The Improvement Service would continue to:-

- ♦ review and develop indicators
- ♦ hold benchmarking events where local authorities could share good practice

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

The Forum decided:

- (1) that the LGBF results, narrative, actions and Family Group analysis identified following scrutiny of the results for 2018/2019 be noted;
- (2) that it be noted that the Council's LGBF results and explanatory narrative for 2018/2019 would be published on the performance pages of the Council's website, to coincide with the official publication of the national results by the Improvement Service; and
- (3) that the developments and events being undertaken by the Improvement Service/ LGBF Board be noted.

5 IMPROVe Red and Amber Results at Quarter 2, 2019/2020

A report dated 23 January 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on performance measures where IMPROVe results at Quarter 2, 2019/2020 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, 24 out of 589 measures relating to Council priorities had a status of 'amber' and 12 had a status of 'red'. The remaining 553 measures (94%) had a status of 'green' (the timescale or target had been met in line with expectations).

For 2019/2020, there had been an increase in the number of 'red' and 'amber' measures reported in comparison to previous years. This was due, in part, to a comprehensive review of measures and targets which had been undertaken in advance of the preparation of the 2019/2020 Resource Plans. This had resulted in more challenging targets being set and a greater clarity on when measures would be classed as 'green', 'amber' or 'red'.

An explanation on progress to date, the circumstances which had determined the 'red' or 'amber' status and details of any remedial or mitigating actions were provided in the appendix to the report.

The information had been reported to individual Resource Committees, as appropriate, to enable more rigorous scrutiny at a Resource level to take place.

The Forum decided: that the report be noted.

6 Highland Council Best Value Assurance Report Published by the Accounts Commission

A report dated 23 January 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on a recent Best Value Assurance Report (BVAR) on Highland Council, published by the Accounts Commission on 23 January 2020.

A summary of the key areas of focus of the Best Value report and recommendations for Highland Council were detailed in the report.

The Forum decided: that the report be noted.

7 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.