

PERFORMANCE AND REVIEW SCRUTINY FORUM

Minutes of meeting held in Committee Room 2, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 23 January 2018

Chair:

Councillor John Ross

Councillors Present:

Alex Allison, Walter Brogan, Robert Brown, Maureen Chalmers, Maureen Devlin, Katy Loudon, Davie McLachlan

Councillors' Apologies:

Peter Craig, Mark McGeever

Attending:

Chief Executive's Service

L Freeland, Chief Executive

Community and Enterprise Resources

C Brown, Environmental Services Manager; P Elliott, Head of Planning and Economic Development; G Mackay, Head of Roads and Transportation Services; M Muir, Countryside and Greenspace Manager

Finance and Corporate Resources

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

Housing and Technical Resources

L Hayes, Performance Co-ordinator

Social Work Resources

L Purdie, Head of Children and Justice Services

South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture Limited

P Barton, Company Secretary

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 31 October 2017 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 IMPROVe Red and Amber Results at Quarter 2, 2017/2018

A report dated 8 January 2018 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on performance measures where IMPROVe results at Quarter 2, 2017/2018 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).

In previous years, the number of 'red' and 'amber' measures reported was calculated against the Council Plan, 'Connect' and Resource priorities. However, the new Council Plan, 'Connect' did not specify objectives as having a higher priority than others. The figures for 2017/2018 had, therefore, been calculated using all 'Connect' objectives which meant that they had been taken from 11 objectives, rather than 9 priority objectives.

Across all Resources, there were 15 out of 441 measures relating to Council priorities that had a status of either 'red' or 'amber'.

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

The information had been reported to the Executive Committee and individual Resource Committees, as appropriate, to enable more rigorous scrutiny to take place.

The Forum decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 28 February 2017 (Paragraph 3) and Minutes of the Executive Committee of 8 November 2017 (Paragraph 7)]

4 New Council Plan, 'Connect' 2017 to 2022

A report dated 22 December 2017 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the new Council Plan, 'Connect' 2017 to 2022.

The new Council Plan, 'Connect' 2017 to 2022, was approved by the Council at its meeting on 6 December 2017.

Information was provided on the:-

- ◆ core elements of the Plan - Vision, Values, Ambitions and Objectives
- ◆ structure and content of the Plan which included:-
 - ◆ an introduction by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive
 - ◆ the purpose and delivery of the Plan
 - ◆ the South Lanarkshire context
 - ◆ how we deliver for South Lanarkshire
 - ◆ our successes
 - ◆ what is next and what is important?
 - ◆ how do we get there?
 - ◆ delivering our Plan

Copies of the Plan had been made available in members' areas and on the Council website.

Officers would continue to ensure individual Resource/Service Plans reflected the detail of the Council Plan.

Consultation had taken place on the Plan with key stakeholders which showed overwhelming approval for the Vision, Values, Ambitions and Objectives outlined in the Plan. A communications strategy had also been developed to ensure both internal and external stakeholders were fully informed of the Plan's contents.

The Forum decided: that the Council Plan, 'Connect' 2017 to 2022, be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of South Lanarkshire Council of 6 December 2017 (Paragraph 3)]

5 Annual Performance Report 2016/2017

A report dated 22 December 2017 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the Council's Annual Performance Report (APR) which was based on performance information relating to 2016/2017.

The report, which had been approved by the Council's Executive Committee on 6 December 2017, had been developed and refined to take into account influences from a range of internal and external sources.

An electronic version of the APR had been uploaded onto the Council's website to allow customers and residents to browse the information electronically. A SNAP survey had also been embedded within the document as well as the traditional feedback form to encourage those accessing the information to provide their views.

To complement the APR, a suite of public performance reports had been prepared for the Council's website which focused on key areas of Council business.

The Accounts Commission 2015 Direction had set a more streamlined and flexible set of performance information for 2016/2017 and for each financial year ending March 2019. The format of the Council's APR would be reviewed for 2017/2018 with a view to producing a short, more accessible document which communicated key messages through a range of case studies, infographics and images.

The Forum decided: that the Council's Annual Performance Report 2016/2017 be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 4 October 2016 (Paragraph 6) and Minutes of the Executive Committee of 6 December 2017 (Paragraph 12)]

6 Audit Scotland Report - Performance and Challenges 2017

A report dated 27 December 2017 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the Audit Scotland report 'Performance and Challenges 2017'.

Audit Scotland published an overview report each year on behalf of the Accounts Commission, covering key areas of current and future activity relative to local government and providing an opinion on how these were or should be managed.

The report, which could be accessed on the Audit Scotland website, was divided into the following 3 parts:-

- ◆ Part 1 The current and future challenges for councils
- ◆ Part 2 Councils' responses to the challenges, including performance in key service areas, public satisfaction and unit costs
- ◆ Part 3 Looking ahead – what more councils could do to ensure they were best placed to successfully manage the changes and challenges they faced

A number of key messages arising from the report were outlined, including recommendations for councils. Details of the recommendations were provided, together with an assessment of the position in this Council.

The Forum decided: that the key messages and recommendations detailed in the Audit Scotland report entitled 'Performance and Challenges 2017' be noted.

7 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.