

PERFORMANCE AND REVIEW SCRUTINY FORUM

Minutes of meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 25 January 2022

Chair:

Councillor John Ross

Councillors Present:

Councillor Alex Allison, Councillor Robert Brown, Councillor Maureen Chalmers, Councillor Gerry Convery, Councillor Peter Craig, Councillor Maureen Devlin, Councillor Joe Fagan, Councillor Katy Loudon, Councillor Jared Wark

Attending:

Chief Executive's Service

C Sneddon, Chief Executive

Community and Enterprise Resources

A McKinnon, Head of Facilities, Waste and Ground Services; G Simpson, Development Adviser

Education Resources

S Nicolson, Head of Education (Senior Phase)

Finance and Corporate Resources

P Manning, Executive Director; M Gordon, Administration Assistant; 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

J Read, Strategy Co-ordinator

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 October 2021 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

The Head of Communications and Strategy referred to item 3 and advised that the results of the analysis of the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF), undertaken by the Improvement Service, had not been received in sufficient time for a report to be submitted to this meeting and that an update on the work in relation to the Council's use of the LGBF would be submitted to a future meeting of the Forum.

The Forum decided:

- (1) that the minutes be approved as a correct record; and
- (2) that the update by the Head of Communications and Strategy be noted.

3 Council Plan 'Connect' 2017 to 2022 – Quarter 2 Progress Report 2021/2022

A report dated 17 December 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the progress of 'Connect', the Council Plan 2017 to 2022, at the Quarter 2 Stage of 2021/2022.

'Connect' detailed the Council's vision, values, ambitions and objectives to be delivered in the 5 year period of the Plan. Progress made on key objectives was summarised in the report. Of the 108 measures nominated for reporting against the Plan in 2021/2022:-

- ◆ 4 projects had been completed
- ◆ 81 had met their timescale or target as per expectations
- ◆ 4 had minor slippage against timescale or minor shortfall against target
- ◆ 0 had major slippage against timescale or major shortfall against target
- ◆ 19 were contextual or would be reported on at a later stage

The 'Connect' Performance Report for Quarter 2, 2021/2022, covering the period to the end of September 2021, 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 2020/2021, considered by the Forum at its meeting on 17 August 2021, had been undertaken. Of the 7 measures which had been identified as 'contextual' or 'report later':-

- ◆ figures for the 6 'contextual' measures had been provided in the previous report to the Forum
- ◆ 1 had been 'report later' as they were Local Government Benchmarking Framework indicators, for which the results would not be published until February 2022

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, including adhering to physical distancing requirements for service users and employees. 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 there had been an inevitable impact on performance in some areas.

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

The Forum decided:

- (1) that the 'Connect' Quarter 2 Progress Report 2021/2022, 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 'report later' in the 'Connect' Quarter 4 Progress Report 2020/2021, as detailed in the report, be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 17 August 2021 (Paragraph 4)]

4 IMPROVe Red and Amber Results at Quarter 2, 2021/2022

A report dated 13 December 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on performance measures where IMPROVe results at Quarter 2, 2021/2022 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, 12 out of 264 measures relating to Council priorities had a status of 'amber' and 0 had a status of 'red'. The remaining 252 measures (95%) 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 2021/2022, there had been a decrease 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 fewer measures overall and greater clarity on when measures would be classed as green, amber or red.

An explanation on progress to date for each Resource, 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, and management actions were provided in Appendix 1 to the report.

The Forum decided: that the report be noted.

5 South Ayrshire Council Best Value Assurance Report (BVAR) Published by the Accounts Commission

A report dated 6 January 2022 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the Best Value Assurance Report (BVAR) that had been published by the Accounts Commission since the previous meeting of the Forum.

The report provided details of the key themes and recommendations included in the BVAR in relation to South Ayrshire Council which had been published on 27 October 2021.

The Forum decided: that the report be noted.

6 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

Chair's Closing Remarks

As this was the last meeting of the Forum prior to the Local Government Elections in May 2022, the Chair thanked the Members and officers for their hard work over the course of this Administration.