



MINUTES OF MEETING of the AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held via VIDEO CONFERENCE (MS TEAMS) on THURSDAY 15 DECEMBER 2022 at 9.30 AM.

PRESENT

Councillor Kenneth Earle (Chair)
Councillor Denis Coyne (Vice Chair)
Councillor William Keogh
Councillor Fiona Law (S)
Councillor Jane McTaggart (S)
Councillor Bryan Quinn
Councillor Janine Rennie

IN ATTENDANCE

Stuart Crickmar, Strategic Director (Partnership and Performance)
Pete Leonard, Strategic Director (Place)
Carole Grant, Audit Scotland
Lindsay Sim, Chief Finance Officer (Partnership & Performance)
Chris Alliston, Senior Manager, HR & Workforce Development (Partnership & Performance)
Alison Morrison, Senior Manager, Property
Derek Barr, Procurement Manager
Emma Fyvie, Senior Manager, Development
Michael Boyle, Improving Outcomes Business Manager
Colin Bruce, Chief Education Officer
Elizabeth Hutcheon, Management Accountancy Team Leader
Iain McDonald, Senior Manager, Environment
Rose Hetman, Strategy & Performance Adviser (Partnership & Performance)
Judi Richardson, Performance & Information Adviser (Partnership & Performance)
Tony Cain, Senior Manager, Housing (Place)
Lee Robertson, Senior Manager, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance) (Clerk to the Committee)
Melanie Moore, Committee Services, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance)

AS(22)29 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Martha Benny, Councillor Ellen Forson and Councillor Phil Fairlie. Councillor Jane McTaggart was in attendance today as substitute for Councillor Ellen Forson and Councillor Fiona Law was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Phil Fairlie.

AS(22)30 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

AS(22)31 MINUTE OF AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 27 OCTOBER 2022

The minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 27 October 2022 were submitted for approval.

Decision

The minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 27 October 2022 were agreed as a correct record by the Committee.

AS(22)32 BUSINESS PLAN REVIEW 2021/23

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director, Place, updated on the Place Business Plan 2021-23 which was agreed by August 2021. Appendices provided detailed updates on performance and improvement actions. Appendix C covered Risk and Appendix D summarised the key achievements over the life of the plan. The Chair asked that members thanks are noted in the minute.

Motion

That Committee agrees the recommendation set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Denis Coyne. Seconded by Councillor Janine Rennie.

Decision

Having challenged and commented on the report, the Committee agreed to note the report.

AS(22)33 PROCUREMENT ANNUAL REPORT

The Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 Section 18 states that the Council must prepare an annual procurement report on its regulated procurement activities as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of the financial year. The report, submitted by the Strategic Director, Partnership and Performance, also updated the committee on key procurement activity and statistical performance during the Financial Year 2021-22 and provides an overview of the resources that are available to deliver effective procurement.

Motion

That the Committee agrees the recommendation as set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Kenneth Earle. Seconded by Councillor William Keogh.

Decision

Having challenged and commented on the report, the Committee agreed to note the report.

AS(22)34 COUNCIL FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 2022/23 AS AT SEPTEMBER 2022

The report, submitted by the Chief Finance Officer, provided an update on the financial performance for the Council as at September 2022, in respect of the General Fund (GF) revenue and capital spend and the achievement of savings, for the current financial year 2022/23, the Clackmannanshire element of the Stirling & Clackmannanshire Health and Social Care Partnership (H&SCP) revenue spend and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) revenue and capital spend, for the financial year, 2022/23.

Motion

That Committee agrees the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Janine Rennie. Seconded by Councillor Denis Coyne.

Decision

Having commented on and challenged the report, the Committee agreed to note the report on:

1. the General Fund (GF) revenue overspend of £0.331m for the year to 31 March 2023 after allocation of general Covid funding of £0.849m;
2. the Clackmannanshire element of the Health and Social Care Partnership (H&SCP) forecasted overspend of £0.476m as at September, for the year to 31 March 2023;
3. the HRA revenue forecasted surplus of £(0.454)m over the budgeted surplus for the year to 31 March 2023;
4. the HRA Capital programme forecasted underspend of £(2.300)m of which £1,500m is proposed to be carried forward to 2023/24;
5. the General Fund Capital Programme forecasted underspend of £(4.098)m, and
6. progress to date in delivering the £1.838m approved savings programme, currently forecast to achieve £1.605m, 87%, as at 31 March 2023.

AS(22)35 EXCEPTIONS FROM THE APPLICATION OF CONTRACT STANDING ORDERS

It is a requirement of Contract Standing Orders that exceptions should be reported to the next available Audit Committee. The purpose of the paper submitted by the Strategic Director, Partnership and Performance is to provide detail on Exceptions to Contract Standing Orders submitted in the previous quarter.

Motion

That the Committee agrees the recommendation as set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Kenneth Earle. Seconded by Councillor Janine Rennie.

Decision

Having challenged and commented on the report, the Committee agreed to note the report.

AS(22)36 CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director, Partnership and Performance, provided the Committee with the 2022/23 half year update on Clackmannanshire Council's Risk Register (Appendix A). This is a repeat of the report presented in October, as the Quarter 3 review is currently underway.

Motion

That Committee agrees the recommendation set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Kenneth Earle. Seconded by Denis Coyne.

Decision

Having commented and challenged the report, the Committee agreed to note the report as appropriate.

Ends 1045 hrs

