

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of HYBRID MEETING of the **SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Thursday 7 March 2024 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM, GAVIN NICOL, CHRIS BEATTIE, JULIE BELL, LYNNE DEVINE, HEATHER DORAN, IAIN GALL, LOUISE NICOL, IAN McLAREN, BRIAN BOYD, LOIS SPEED AND DEREK WANN.

Councillor FOTHERINGHAM, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Ronnie Proctor MBE and Martin Shepherd, with Councillors Ian McLaren and Brian Boyd substituting respectively. Apologies were also intimated on behalf of Councillor Ross Greig.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/STATEMENTS OF TRANSPARENCY

Councillor Doran made a statement of transparency in relation to Article 5 in that she had recently, through her employment at The University of Dundee, worked with Police Scotland on a podcast on historical matters.

3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 23 January 2024 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

SCRUTINY

Prior to consideration of Item 4 Area Commander Scott Gibson, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service informed the Committee that Area Commander Jason Sharp, would be retiring from the Service. The Committee thanked Jason for all his work and input to this Committee and wished him a long and healthy retirement.

4. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER 2023 TO 31 DECEMBER 2023

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 28 November 2023, there was submitted Report No 73/24 by the Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service relating to quarter three, 1 October to 31 December 2023 on the performance and activities in support of the priorities in the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Angus 2020 and the wider community planning priorities.

Attached as Appendix 1 to the Report was a detailed breakdown and analysis of all data collected during the reporting period which included an overview of a range of community safety engagement events and partnership working.

The Area Commander provided a brief overview of the report and was heard in relation to the key performance highlights, performance management targets and the Community Safety Engagement Programmes.

Following questions and comments, the Committee agreed to note the performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service as outlined in the quarterly monitoring report for the period 1 October to 31 December 2023.

5. POLICE SCOTLAND – ANGUS LOCAL POLICING AREA QUARTERLY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER 2023 TO 31 DECEMBER 2023

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 28 November 2023, there was submitted Report No 74/24 by Assistant Chief Superintendent Jason Carrigan, which updated the Committee on the performance results for the period 1 October to 31 December 2023.

Assistant Chief Superintendent Jason Carrigan, accompanied by Chief Inspector Ross Fitzgerald, Local Area Commander for Angus provided a brief introduction to the report, following which Chief Inspector Ross Fitzgerald provided an informative overview of the report.

Appendix A attached to the report outlined the performance of Police Scotland and information in relation to some of the work which had taken place within the Angus Local Policing Area. The data provided within the report was for information purposes to allow members to conduct their scrutiny responsibilities under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012.

Following questions and comments, the Committee agreed to note the Angus Local Policing Area Quarterly Report for the period 1 October to 31 December 2023.

6. ANGUS COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2022/23

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 8 September 2022, there was submitted Report No 75/24 by the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth presenting the Angus Community Planning Partnership Annual Performance Report 2022/23 and the work delivered by the Angus Community Planning Partnership (ACPP) for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 including the Our Bright Futures Report, the 2023-25 action plan and the Community Learning and Development Plan 2022/23 and updated action plan.

The Angus Community Planning Partnership had done a lot of work over the past 18 months to align local strategies and plans with the Community Plan for partners and services. A summary of the key highlights was provided in Section 5.2 of the Report.

The Report highlighted work which had been undertaken by the partners, which included Social Prescribing Services, Employer Recruitment, High-Speed broadband throughout Angus, Angus Cycle Hub, Children's Services inspections and supporting unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children.

Following questions and comments, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the Community Plan Annual Performance Report for 2022-2023, as detailed within Appendix 1 to the Report;
- (ii) to note the Our Bright Futures Report and Action Plan, as detailed within Appendices 2, 3 and 4 to the Report; and
- (iii) to note the Community Learning and Development Plan, as detailed within Appendix 5 to the Report.

At this point, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service representatives left the meeting.

7. ANGUS CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT AUGUST 2022 – JULY 2023

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 22 August 2023, there was submitted Report No 76/24 by the by the Chief Executive presenting the Angus Child Protection Committee Annual Report for the period August 2022 to July 2023, which was submitted to provide assurance to elected members on the multi-agency child protection work in Angus and seeking approval for the annual report.

Alison Todd, the Independent Chair of the Child Protection Committee highlighted the work undertaken across Angus by individual agencies and in partnership to deliver National, Tayside wide and local child protection outcomes to improve the lives of children at risk of harm.

Ms Todd highlighted ongoing work to improve child protection practice throughout Angus, along with key trends that demonstrated a continued increase in demand across frontline child protection services. Noting that although there had been an increase in demand of services, resources were able to keep up with demand and able to provide appropriate support for individuals and families.

Following questions and comments by members, the Committee having considered the Report, agreed:-

- (i) to note the Angus Child Protection Committee Annual Report 2022 to 2023, as appended to the Report; and
- (ii) to note the key trends and areas for development emerging from the Report.

At this point, the Police Scotland representatives left the meeting.

AUDIT

8. INTERNAL AUDIT ACTIVITY UPDATE

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 23 January 2024, there was submitted Report No 77/24 by the Service Leader - Internal Audit, providing the Internal Audit Activity update on the main findings of the Internal Audit Reports issued since the date of the last meeting.

The Service Leader provided an update with regards to vacancies within the team which had significantly impacted on delivery of the plan for 2023/24.

Thereafter, it was noted that the revised Global Internal Audit Standards had been published in January 2024 and the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards were expected to be published late Summer/ early Autumn. The Service Leader would await this information prior to completing any required changes.

The Service Leader also provided an overview of the recent Audit for the PDR Appraisal System and Organisational resilience, the findings and areas for improvement moving forward.

Following questions and comments, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the update on progress with the planned Internal Audit work, as detailed within Appendix 1 to the Report; and
- (ii) to note management's progress in implementing internal audit and counter fraud recommendations, as detailed within Appendix 1 to the Report.

9. DETAILED RISK REPORTING TO SCRUTINY AND AUDIT

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 23 January 2024, there was submitted Report No 78/24 by the Service Leader - Internal Audit, presenting detailed risk information to members in line with the programme agreed by the Committee in June 2023.

The Service Leader – Governance, Change and Strategic Policy provided a detailed overview in relation to Performance Management, highlighting existing controls and how these were used to monitor and reduce risks.

Having noted that there had been no changes to the Corporate Risks since the last meeting, the Committee, noted the information presented in relation to Performance Management risk.

10. COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS: QUARTER TWO – 1 JULY – 30 SEPTEMBER 2023 AND QUARTER THREE – 1 OCTOBER – 31 DECEMBER 2023

With reference to Article 11 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 26 October 2023, there was submitted Report No 79/24 by the Director of Legal, Governance and Change, highlighting the complaints received in quarter two from 1 July to 30 September 2023 and quarter three from 1 October to 31 December 2023, and providing assurance to members that work was ongoing to learn from complaints received by Angus Council. The Report also included details of compliments received during the same period.

The Report provided a summary of complaints received by Directorate and outlined the four key Performance Indicators that the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman used to monitor practice and identify trends.

Section 5 of the Report provided information on the current backlog with regards to complaints, examples of compliments received during the period, together with samples of changes implemented as a direct result of a complaint being received.

Following questions and comments, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the complaint statistics for the period as detailed within Appendix 1 to the Report;
- (ii) to note the sample of compliments received for the period;
- (iii) to note the complaints received by each of the Council's Directorates as outlined in Appendix 2 to the Report; and
- (iv) that the Complaints and Compliments Report be brought to Committee on a six monthly basis, rather than on a quarterly basis.