

Scrutiny and Petitions Committee
27 January 2016

IRVINE, 27 January 2016 - At a Meeting of the Scrutiny and Petitions Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

John Hunter, Robert Barr, Matthew Brown, Alex Gallagher, Grace McLean, Catherine McMillan .

In Attendance

L. Friel, Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support); C. Hatton, Executive Director (Place); C. McAuley, Head of Service (Economic Growth) (Economy and Communities); S. Quinn, Head of Service (Schools) (Education and Youth Employment); J. Gibson, Principal Manager (Planning and Performance) (Health and Social Care Partnership); A. Fraser, Head of Democratic Services, A. Todd, Senior Performance Officer and A. Little, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's Service).

Chair

Councillor Hunter in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Alan Munro.

1. Declarations of Interest

In terms of Standing Order 10 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors, Councillor Brown and McMillan, as members of the Ayrshire Valuation Joint Board (AVJB), declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 5 (AVJB Minutes).

2. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of (i) the ordinary meeting of the Committee held on 25 November 2015, (ii) the special meeting held on 7 December 2015; and (iii) the special meeting held on 22 December 2015 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Performance Management Update

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on progress on the Performance Management Forum (PMF) work plan under the PMF key performance areas, and in terms of Recognised for Excellence. Detailed progress on the PMF work plan were attached at Appendix 1 to the report. Appendix 2 contained details of R4E areas which the Assessors identified for improvement, as well as activity to date and activity planned to address these points.

Members asked questions, and received further information, on the following:-

- feedback provided by Quality Scotland on Recognised for Excellence (R4E) following their 2015 assessment which highlighted a large range of areas for improvement;
- proposals to meet the R4E improvement plan that were reported to Cabinet in January 2016, that will be implemented in three phases and include performance measures, performance staff and knowledge hub; and
- the score of the Council that was within the 300 - 400 band.

The Committee agreed (a) that Members be provided with (i) the Recognised for Excellence Improvement Plan report that was presented to Cabinet on 16 January 2016; and (ii) the letter from Quality Scotland that accompanied the R4E assessment; and (b) to otherwise note the report.

4. Directorate Plan 2015/16 Performance Reports as at 30 September 2015

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on an update on the performance of all Directorates as at 30 September 2015.

Members asked questions, and received further information, on the following:-

Democratic Services

- A review of performance management that is underway.

Finance and Corporate Support

- the performance indicators for the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) that match those of SOLACE; and
- Mid year Council Tax collections for 2015/16 that are on target and forecasting that indicates that the annual target will be achieved.

Education and Youth

- the Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible and Included (SHANARRI) interactive toolkit that is used to help assess wellbeing needs; and
- the national performance evaluation and benchmarking tool (INSIGHT) that is centred on the idea of a "virtual comparator" and matches ten leavers from across Scotland to every one of the leavers in each school/authority and treats this matched group as the virtual school/authority.

Economy and Communities

- management discretion that can be applied as part of the Maximising Attendance Procedure and halts progression to the next stage of the process;

- work to design and develop an Ayrshire Growth Deal that will deliver significant economic growth and consultation that will take place with a number partners and Elected Members;
- data that has not been available/validated in respect of Job Seekers Allowance; and
- the recruitment of an Performance Officer to review performance measures and to drive service performance

Place

- the move away from temporary road repairs to the 'Right First Time' approach to ensure first time quality road repairs are undertaken.

Health and Social Care Partnership

- dementia training that has been provided across the Health and Social Care Partnership and links that have been made with colleagues in acute services;
- the continuing work towards full integration between health and social care that is progressing well; and
- engagement that has taken place with GPs in working towards a new model for primary contact.

Noted.

4. AVJB Minutes

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Minutes of the Meeting of the Ayrshire Valuation Joint Board (AVJB) held on 10 November 2015.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 3.25 p.m.