

MINUTE
of
EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting held at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 26 June 2019.

Present:

Provost Jim Fletcher	Councillor Alan Lafferty
Deputy Provost Betty Cunningham	Councillor Colm Merrick
Councillor Caroline Bamforth	Councillor Stewart Miller
Councillor Tony Buchanan (Leader)	Councillor Paul O’Kane
Councillor Angela Convery	Councillor Jim Swift
Councillor Danny Devlin	Councillor Gordon Wallace
Councillor Barbara Grant	

Provost Fletcher in the Chair

Attending:

Lorraine McMillan, Chief Executive; Caroline Innes, Deputy Chief Executive; Mhairi Shaw, Director of Education; Andy Cahill, Director of Environment; Julie Murray, Chief Officer – Health and Social Care Partnership; Margaret McCrossan, Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer); Gillian McCarney, Strategic Services Manager; Tracy Butler, Partnerships Team Leader; Claire Coburn, Partnership Development Officer; Eamonn Daly, Democratic Services Manager; and Paul O’Neil, Committee Services Officer.

Apologies:

Councillors Paul Aitken; Charlie Gilbert; Annette Ireland; David Macdonald; and Jim McLean.

REQUEST TO RECORD PROCEEDINGS

926. Provost Fletcher intimated that a request had been received to audio record the meeting. The request was approved.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

927. Provost Fletcher and Councillors Grant, Merrick and O’Kane declared non-financial interests in relation to Item 947 by virtue of the fact they were members of the East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust Board.

Variation in Order of Business

In accordance with the terms of Standing Order 19, Provost Fletcher altered the order of business to facilitate the conduct of the meeting.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

928. The Council considered the Minute of the meeting held on 1 May 2019. Under reference to Paragraph 868 of the Minute where Provost Fletcher and Councillor Buchanan had responded to a question about the Cabinet decision on 14 March regarding audio recording the meeting, Councillor Buchanan clarified that the person who had left the meeting of the Cabinet following the decision to prohibit audio recording of the meeting was not the person who had made the request.

Thereafter, the Council:

- (a) approved the Minute of the meeting held on 1 May 2019; and
- (b) otherwise noted the statement made by Councillor Buchanan.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES

929. The Council considered and approved the Minutes of the meetings of the undernoted:-

- (a) Cabinet – 2 May 2019;
- (b) Appeals Committee – 7 May 2019;
- (c) Education Committee – 9 May 2019;
- (d) Licensing Committee – 14 May 2019;
- (e) Planning Applications Committee – 15 May 2019;
- (f) Local Review Body – 15 May 2019;
- (g) Cabinet – 6 June 2019;
- (h) Cabinet (Police and Fire) – 6 June 2019;
- (i) Licensing Committee – 11 June 2019;
- (j) Local Review Body – 12 June 2019; and
- (k) Education Committee – 13 June 2019.

DRAFT OUTCOME DELIVERY PLAN 2019-22

930. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Cabinet of 2 May 2019 (Page 823, Item 878 refers), when it was agreed amongst other things to recommend to the Council that the draft Outcome Delivery Plan (ODP) 2019-22 be approved, the Council considered a report by the Chief Executive, providing details of the draft Outcome Delivery Plan 2019-22 which set out the Council's contribution to the delivery of its strategic outcomes for East Renfrewshire. A copy of the ODP was appended to the report.

The report explained that since consideration by the Cabinet there had been some changes to the plan following the Community Planning Partnership's Performance and Accountability Review (PAR) meeting and to further align the ODP with the Health and Social Care Partnership's Strategic Plan. Details of the changes were outlined in the report.

The Council approved the draft Outcome Delivery Plan 2019-22.

PROPOSED GUIDE TO SCRUTINY AND REVIEW

931. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee of 20 June 2019 (Page 868, Item 924 refers), when it was agreed amongst other things to recommend to the Council that the draft Guide to Scrutiny and Review be approved, making it available to all committees and councillors for their use, the Council considered a report by the Chief Executive, providing enhanced guidance on scrutiny, review and evaluation arrangements within the overall context of Best Value within the Council. A copy of the guidance was appended to the report.

The report explained that the Audit of Best Value of the Council had taken place in November 2017, and that one of the recommendations arising from the audit was that Elected Members should take a more transparent and active role in scrutiny. Details of the progress that had been made on a range of scrutiny issues since the audit report was published were outlined in the report.

Furthermore, the report advised that a '*Guide to Scrutiny and Review*' had been prepared which was intended primarily for members of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee to help them identify specific issues they wished to review and progress related work and, once approved, the guide would be available to all Elected Members and committees.

The Council agreed that the draft Guide to Scrutiny and Review be approved, making it available to all Elected Members and committees for their use.

STATEMENTS BY REPRESENTATIVES ON JOINT BOARDS/COMMITTEES

932. The following statement was made:-

Councillor Bamforth - Integration Joint Board

Councillor Bamforth reported on the business considered at the most recent meeting of the Health and Social Care Partnership Integration Joint Board (IJB) which had been held earlier in the day. She advised that the IJB had been given an update on the Council's Child Poverty Action Plan, and approved the unaudited annual report and accounts together with the annual performance plan for 2018/19. There had been a discussion on the ongoing issues and pressures within the Care at Home Service and confirmation had been given that new staff appointments were commencing from the first cohort of recruitment and rolling recruitment was ongoing. It had been noted that Allied Healthcare had withdrawn from the current contract and staff were in a Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (TUPE) process to transfer to the in-house workforce.

Furthermore, the IJB had agreed a revised policy for overnight support that would personalise alternatives to sleepovers, meeting individual outcomes in a less intrusive and more efficient way. Consideration was also given to the principles of a financial framework to support the 5-year Adult Mental Health Strategy over Greater Glasgow and Clyde for the next 5 years and the inclusion of perinatal services was one of the key service areas to be included in the strategy.

Concluding her remarks, Councillor Bamforth advised that an update had been given on the Primary Care Improvement Plan; a discussion held on innovative approaches to vaccination and establishment of treatment rooms; and information provided on the potential impact that new housing developments in East Renfrewshire would have on GP practices in the coming years.

The Council noted the statement.

CITY DEAL CABINET – APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTES

933. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Council of 24 May 2017 (Page 9, Item 11 refers), when it was agreed that the Leader of the Council be appointed as the Council's representative on the City Deal Cabinet with the Deputy Leader being appointed as a substitute, the Council considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, seeking approval for new substitute arrangements for the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council on the City Deal Cabinet.

Whilst noting that the City Deal Cabinet had been set up as a joint committee in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the report explained that due to other commitments, neither the Leader nor Deputy Leader had been able to attend the meeting of the City Deal Cabinet on 4 June 2019 and that to ensure political representation from the Council at the meeting, Councillor Merrick had attended.

However, as only the Leader and Deputy Leader had formerly been appointed to represent the Council on the City Deal Cabinet the report sought homologation of Councillor Merrick's attendance at the meeting.

The report also proposed that to avoid the need for homologation being sought in future if an Elected Member attended a meeting of the City Deal Cabinet due to the unavailability of both the Leader and Deputy Leader, it was recommended that the Council agree to appoint all remaining Elected Members as substitutes.

The Council:-

- (a) homologated the attendance of Councillor Merrick at the meeting of the City Deal Cabinet on 4 June 2019; and
- (b) agreed that to ensure the Council was represented at meetings, in the event neither the Leader or the Council or Deputy Leader of the Council were able to attend, all remaining Elected Members be appointed as substitutes.

PROVOST'S ENGAGEMENTS

934. The Council considered and noted a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, providing details of civic engagements attended and civic duties performed by Provost Fletcher since the last meeting.

GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2019/20

935. The Council considered a report by the Chief Financial Officer, recommending approval of adjustments to the General Fund Capital Programme 2019/20 in light of issues that had arisen since the programme had been approved.

The report highlighted the latest developments relating to the programme, including the latest income and expenditure movements and cash flow management issues and indicated that there was no shortfall in the programme. Detailed explanations of the reasons for the major movements within the programme were outlined in the report.

The Council:-

- (a) noted and approved the movements within the programme; and

- (b) noted that income and expenditure on the programme would be managed and reported on a regular basis.

HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2019/20

936. The Council considered a joint report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Director of Environment, recommending approval of adjustments to the 2019/20 Housing Capital Programme where necessary in light of issues that had arisen since the programme had been approved.

The report highlighted the latest developments relating to the programme, including the latest income and expenditure movements and cash flow management issues and indicated that no shortfall was projected. Detailed explanations of reasons for the major movements within the programme were outlined in the report.

The Council:-

- (a) agreed that the movements within the Housing Capital Programme 2019/20 be approved; and
- (b) noted that income and expenditure on the programme would be managed and reported on a regular basis.

EASTWOOD LEISURE CENTRE

937. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Council of 31 October 2018 (Page 600, Item 666 refers), when the Council agreed amongst other things to note that the Director of Environment would undertake the master planning of Eastwood Park and this would specifically explore the feasibility of a new build leisure centre within Eastwood Park based upon the latest information on Council property options for schools and office accommodation, the Council considered a report by the Director of Environment, advising on proposals to build a new Eastwood Leisure Centre and theatre within Eastwood Park and also to highlight progress being made with regard to the wider Eastwood Park master planning exercise. A location plan showing the proposed site was appended to the report.

The report explained that since October 2018 a considerable amount of work had been carried out in relation to the project and it had been established that although there would be some challenges it was feasible and physically possible to provide a new leisure centre and theatre within Eastwood Park based broadly on the original footprint and specification with the exception of the four floodlit outdoor 3G pitches.

Whilst noting that the costs associated with the project were not yet finalised given that there were options to be considered before agreeing the final proposal, the report highlighted that the Eastwood Park option was likely to be more expensive comparatively than providing the same facility on a clear site. In addition, it had been confirmed that it would be possible to undertake the project as a tandem build which would allow continued provision of sports and theatre facilities for residents until the new leisure centre became available for use. Given that there were a range of options/combinations and costs with regard to the leisure centre and associated matters, the report indicated that these would be outlined in a further option appraisal that would be submitted to a future meeting of the Council.

Reference was also made to the consultant's recommendation in October 2018 that the preferred option for a new build facility should be Shawwood Park or failing that Broomburn

Park. However, should the Council approve the recommendations in the report then there would be no need to promote either Shawwood Park or Broomburn Park through the Local Development Plan process for the purposes of a leisure centre and theatre and both of these parks would remain designated as protected urban greenspace.

Councillor Grant welcomed the fact that should the Council approve the recommendations in the report Shawwood and Broomburn parks would remain as protected urban greenspace.

Councillor Merrick commented on the process that had been followed, and acknowledged the frustration of residents given the time it had taken to consider the preferred choice of location for the leisure centre. However, he emphasised the importance of carrying out due diligence with regard to the project.

Concluding his remarks, Councillor Merrick referred to the challenges that the Council would face in terms of the management of the site in Eastwood Park. He also expressed his disappointment that the new facilities would not include the 4 pitches as proposed in the original specification.

Councillor Swift supported the choice of building the new facility in Eastwood Park. In addition, Councillor Wallace suggested that the proposed location was down to the representations of local people particularly in relation to safeguarding the green fields in Newton Mearns. He also commented that Giffnock residents had always wanted the proposed development built in their local area.

The Council:-

- (a) approved Eastwood Park as the preferred site for a new Eastwood Leisure Centre and theatre;
- (b) agreed that the Director of Environment report back as soon as possible with options and costs with regard to the new leisure centre and theatre;
- (c) noted the progress being made with the Eastwood Park master planning exercise and that the Director of Environment would report back on the wider issues and opportunities/possibilities in due course; and
- (d) noted that as a result of Eastwood Park being identified as the preferred location Shawwood and Broomburn Parks would remain as protected urban green spaces in terms of the Local Development Plan.

PROPOSED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2

938. The Council considered a report by the Director of Environment, seeking approval for a proposed Local Development Plan 2 (LDP 2) and authority to publish the proposed plan for consultation.

The report explained that the Local Development Plan was the Council's key strategic land use planning document and that together with capital investment strategy/capital plans and long-term financial strategy, it directly supported the Community Plan (including fairer East Ren) and the Council's corporate plan "Vision for the Future". Furthermore, the provision of new homes and supporting infrastructure was one of the most important elements of a Local Development Plan.

The report highlighted that the approved Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan (2017) now referred to as *Clydeplan*, set out the housing requirements to 2029 across all tenures it being noted that the Council was required to provide 4350 homes during the period 2012-29. Whilst noting that the current Local Development Plan (LDP1) which was adopted in 2015 ran until June 2020, the report indicated that the Council had commenced a review of LDP1 and had started the preparation of LDP2 in October 2016 with the publication of the Main Issues Report (MIR) for consultation. This document set out the Council's preferred options and possible alternatives together with identifying the consolidation, regeneration and controlled edge of settlement growth as the preferred strategy. It was noted that 13 new preferred housing sites had been identified which had a total estimated capacity of 1050 units.

The results of the public consultation on the MIR were reported to the meeting of the Council in December 2017 and it was noted that meeting educational needs had been raised as a key issue for LDP2. To address this, it had been proposed to undertake further detailed needs analysis and forecasting of future educational needs. Details of the work undertaken since October 2018 were outlined in the report.

Furthermore, it was noted that the current established position was that schools within the Eastwood area of the authority had increasingly high occupancy levels and there was insufficient capacity within the current school estate to support any new development over and above that which was included within LDP1. As previously reported, the release of any further sites within the Eastwood area would require the provision of an additional 3 schools. The research and analysis of the school estate had been a particularly valuable piece of work which had not only informed LDP2 but would influence land use planning within the Council area well into the future.

The report highlighted that there was significant current residential development opportunity already identified in LDP1 across the Council area and there was currently through the existing LDP1 an effective ongoing land supply which complied with the requirements of Scottish planning policy. Regardless of these issues, it was essential that the Council had an up to date and refreshed Local Plan that fully reflected the policy requirements of Scottish Planning Policy and *Clydeplan*.

The report indicated that the proposed LDP2 set out the refreshed strategy up to 2029 and that the infrastructure issues highlighted in this and previous Council reports would continue to be monitored and addressed when LDP3 was being progressed. In view of this, it was proposed that LDP2 should not include any of the 13 sites identified in the MIR or any other additional sites and simply seek to promote a strategy of consolidation and regeneration. This approach should allow the proposed plan to be progressed swiftly towards adoption. Details of the key proposals within LDP2 were outlined in the report.

The strategic housing analysis and monitoring that had been carried out clearly demonstrated that there was an effective and generous housing land supply available. In addition, there were significant educational issues which remained unresolved and there was insufficient school capacity to support any new development over and above what was included within LDP1.

The report also highlighted that there was a need to continue to monitor the demand for education places and to bring forward a strategy that would fully address future education infrastructure requirements in a long-term, coordinated and planned way and that this remained a key issue. The Education and Environment Departments would continue to work in close collaboration to agree a strategy that would fully address future education and residential needs in a long-term, coordinated and planned way through LDP3 which would follow the adoption of LDP2 and the strategy for which would form part of a wider vision of the Council.

The Council, having heard the Director of Environment in response to a question by Councillor Swift confirm that whilst Broomburn Park had been identified in the Main Issues Report (MIR) it would not form part of the LDP2 process:-

- (a) approved the proposed Local Development Plan 2 and supporting documents for publication and consultation; and
- (b) agreed that delegated powers be granted to the Director of Environment to approve any minor inconsequential changes to the documents referred to, in line with Council policy prior to their publication.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 1 - EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS – UPDATE TO BASE DATA AND COST INFORMATION

939. The Council considered a report by the Director of Environment, seeking approval of an update to the evidence base which informed the education sector of the Council's adopted Local Development Plan 1 (LDP1) Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) on development contributions.

The report explained that the adopted SPG (June 2015) stated that the base data supporting the policy would be reviewed on an annual basis and where appropriate updated cost information would be published on the Council's website. However, following a significant review of the base data and cost information which supported the Education section of the SPG, the report indicated that it was now considered appropriate to publish updated cost information as an education addendum to the adopted SPG. This would ensure that the SPG remained robust in order to adequately support the delivery of the adopted Local Development Plan (LDP1).

Furthermore, the report highlighted that a full update of the SPG would be produced in due course to support the proposed Local Development Plan 2 and that it was anticipated that this full proposed SPG would be reported in late autumn/winter 2019.

Councillor Swift sought clarification whether all developers would be required to make development contributions for those schools lying within the catchment area of their development. In response, the Strategic Services Manager explained that it would be dependent upon the occupancy rate of the school at the time the application for planning permission was being determined. She indicated that development contributions for education provision would be only be sought from developers where the occupancy rate of a school was above 85%.

The Council:-

- (a) approved the update of the evidence base supporting the Education section of the Council's adopted LDP1 Supplementary Planning Guidance on development contributions;
- (b) approved the resulting updated education contribution requirements, for formal publication as an addendum to the adopted SPG as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report; and
- (c) agreed that delegated powers be granted to the Director of Environment to approve any minor inconsequential changes to the document, in line with Council policy, prior to its publication.

STRATEGIC END-YEAR COUNCIL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2018-19

940. The Council considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, presenting a summary of Council performance at end-year 2018-19 based on performance indicators in the Outcome Delivery Plan (ODP) 2018-21. The report also explained that councils were required to assess and monitor complaints handling performance against a number of high level performance indicators identified by the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman. A copy of the end-year complaints report was appended to the report.

The report detailed the performance of the Council at end-year 2018-19 highlighting that the Council was performing well across the majority of ODP indicators and that the Council continued to work towards the aim of making peoples' lives better by delivering highly valued services and achieving positive outcomes for communities in East Renfrewshire.

The Council noted the:-

- (a) summary of the Council's performance at end-year 2018-19; and
- (b) end-year complaints report appended to the report.

COMMUNITY PLAN AND LOCALITY PLANS - ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORTS

941. The Council considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, seeking approval of annual progress reports on the Community Plan and the Locality Plans for Auchenback and ADD2 Barrhead. Copies of the progress reports were appended to the report.

Whilst noting that the East Renfrewshire Community Plan had been approved by the Council and the Community Planning Partnership in June 2018, the report highlighted that the Community Plan was the Community Planning Partnership's 10 year plan for communities across the whole of East Renfrewshire. In addition, it contained Fairer East Ren, a layer of outcomes that were set to focus on the greatest social economic inequalities at an authority-wide level. This formed the statutory Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.

Furthermore, the Council and its partners also had a duty to prepare and deliver Locality Plans by working with members of communities that experienced poorer outcomes throughout the lifecycle compared with East Renfrewshire as a whole. It was noted that there were two Locality Plans in place for Auchenback and ADD2 Barrhead which covered the community areas of Dunterlie, East Arthurlie and Dovecothall.

Whilst noting that the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 introduced the requirement for these plans along with an expectation that Community Planning Partnerships report progress annually to the communities that the plans covered, the report sought approval of three separate progress reports which were noted as the Community Plan Progress Report 2019; and Locality Plan Progress Reports for ADD2 Barrhead and Auchenback.

The Council approved for publication the Community Plan and Locality Plan annual progress reports.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE CORPORATE PARENTING PLAN 2016-18 YEAR 2 PROGRESS REPORT

942. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Education Committee of 9 May 2019 (Page 832, Item 887 refers), when it was agreed amongst other things to note the

terms of the plan, the Council considered a report by the Chief Social Work Officer, presenting East Renfrewshire's Corporate Parenting Plan Year 2 Progress Report for the period 2016-18.

The report provided background information about the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, which placed new corporate parenting duties on a wide range of publicly funded organisations, and referred to the work undertaken by the Community Planning Partnership and its members, along with an extensive list of other local and national organisations, in the delivery of the Corporate Parenting Plan approved by Council in 2016. Details about the number of children and young people in East Renfrewshire who were looked after was outlined in the report.

The plan's evaluation framework, together with details of its performance highlighting key improvements that had been made, together with areas of challenge and performance reporting and benchmarking were outlined in the report.

The report indicated that the corporate parenting family in East Renfrewshire had approved their plan in December 2016 and had worked together, and in partnership with children, families and carers to deliver the agreed priorities and improved outcomes as highlighted within the plan. Furthermore, the report explained that as the current plan drew to a close, East Renfrewshire's corporate parents in partnership with children would develop a new plan for the coming year that would support the improvement programme that had been set.

The Council:-

- (a) noted the progress made in delivering improved outcomes for East Renfrewshire's looked after children, young people and care leavers as well as the ongoing challenges; and
- (b) acknowledged the role locally of these public bodies which had a legal status as corporate parents as listed in Appendix 4 to the report.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE SOCIAL IMPACT PLEDGE

943. The Council considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, seeking approval of proposed Social Impact Pledges.

The report explained that public sector organisations across Scotland had been asked by the Scottish Government to commit to increasing their social impact on people and communities by making a social impact pledge.

Whilst noting that this should be made up of three new commitments which would happen in the next six months, the report highlighted that almost 50 organisations had made social impact pledges to date, including seven local authorities. Details of what organisations were being asked to do in relation to making a pledge public together with information on the Council's social impact pledges were outlined in the report.

The Council approved the three proposed social impact pledges as detailed in the report.

LOCAL CHILD POVERTY ACTION REPORT

944. The Council considered a joint report by the Deputy Chief Executive and the Chief Officer – Health and Social Care Partnership, presenting the first East Renfrewshire Local Child Poverty Action Report as required by the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017.

The report explained that the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 set out ambitious targets for the Scottish Government to significantly reduce child poverty in Scotland by 2030 and also placed a duty on local authorities to work together with health boards to develop, produce and deliver Local Child Poverty Action Reports (LCPARs). It was noted that the reports were expected to represent a 'step change' in action to address child poverty locally, both describing the current excellent work underway in many areas and outlining plans for new and innovative efforts to tackle child poverty. The publication deadline for the first annual report was noted as 30 June 2019.

The report highlighted that the East Renfrewshire LCPAR highlighted the range of actions across the local authority, Health and Social Care Partnership and local partners. Furthermore, it also included actions at NHS Board level which were relevant to East Renfrewshire. Details of the notable key successes in the LCPAR were outlined in the report.

Whilst noting that the fairer East Ren Delivery Plan preceded the LCPAR but was not replaced by it, the report explained that the nature of the LCPAR was crosscutting across several of the strategic priority areas of the Community Plan. It was noted that the current LCPAR would be reported and monitored in line with the Fairer East Ren outcomes but as a separate plan. It was intended that in future years the monitoring and reporting would become more embedded, the options for this to be explored and agreed with partners.

The report concluded by indicating that this was the first LCPAR produced in East Renfrewshire highlighting the positive work which was being done to tackle the impact and drivers of poverty across the authority. It also invited elected Members to recognise the opportunities for further development and action to address these going forward. This would ensure the Council and HSCP, together with other local partners, were directing effort and resources smartly to reduce child poverty in East Renfrewshire.

The Council agreed to approve and publish the Local Child Poverty Action report to meet the requirements of the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017.

ANNUAL STATEMENT ON ADEQUACY OF GOVERNANCE, RISK MANAGEMENT AND INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEMS

945. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of Audit and Scrutiny Committee of 20 June 2019 (Page 867, Item 923 refers), when it had been agreed to approve the Annual Statement on the Adequacy of Governance, Risk Management and Internal Control Systems and submit it to the Council for noting, the Council considered a report by the Audit and Scrutiny Committee regarding the statement. A copy of the statement was appended to the report.

The report highlighted that it was the opinion of the Chief Auditor that reasonable assurance could be placed upon the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's framework of governance, risk management and internal control for the year ended 31 March 2019.

The Council noted the internal audit Annual Statement on the Adequacy and Effectiveness of the Governance, Risk Management and Internal Control Systems of the Council for the year ending 31 March 2019.

POLLING SCHEME REVIEW

946. The Council considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, advising of the current review of polling districts and polling places in East Renfrewshire and seeking approval for a draft polling scheme.

The report explained that the Council was required to conduct a review of polling places and polling districts by 2020 and that the review that had been conducted had taken into account future population growth, the Council's own development plans and the concerns of parents and carers about needing to arrange alternative child care on polling day.

Whilst noting that although polling scheme reviews were conducted from the point of view of what was best for the voter, and from a voter perspective the current polling places in use were considered to be the best available, the report indicated that every effort had been made to move to non-school premises where it was considered possible.

However, it was noted that where this had not been considered appropriate mitigation measures had been put in place to minimise the need for parents/carers to arrange alternative child care on polling days. As a result, this had seen the reduction in the use of school premises by three. In most cases the alternative premises that had been recommended were not as suitable as the schools they replaced but overall would still be able to operate satisfactorily as a polling place. Details of the proposed changes to the current polling scheme were outlined in the report.

The Council:-

- (a) noted the timetable for conducting the statutory review of polling district and polling places;
- (b) noted the comments that had been received in response to the preliminary consultation exercise;
- (c) noted the analysis of the suggested alternatives;
- (d) approved the minor amendments to the boundaries and the proposed amended polling places as outlined above;
- (e) noted that the new draft scheme would be used as the basis for further consultation; and
- (f) noted that a final version of the scheme would be submitted to the meeting of the Council in September for consideration.

Sederunt

Provost Fletcher and Councillors Grant, Merrick and O'Kane left the meeting at this stage.

Deputy Provost Cunningham assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE CULTURE AND LEISURE TRUST - CONFIRMATION OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT

947. The Council considered a report by the Chief Financial Officer, seeking approval of the issue of a letter to East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust confirming the Council's ongoing financial support for the Trust. A copy of the proposed letter was appended to the report.

Whilst noting that as part of the external audit of the East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust accounts for 2018/19 the Council was required to confirm its ongoing financial support for the Trust as a going concern, the report explained that for 2018/19 ERCLT's draft accounts showed a surplus of £291,000. However, despite the satisfactory financial performance for 2018/19 a letter of comfort was still required by the Trust's external auditors as the Council had not confirmed the Trust budget for 2020/21.

Given that this issue was likely to recur in future years even if annual financial performance remained positive, the report emphasised that as in previous years, the Council would continue to monitor the Trust's financial position throughout the year. It was noted that as the letter required to be issued to ERCLT in advance of its Finance and Risk Committee meeting on 6 August 2019, the report sought approval from the Council rather than through the normal Cabinet route.

The Council approved:-

- (a) the issue of a letter to ERCLT confirming the Council's ongoing financial support for the Trust's activities; and
- (b) that the Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer) issue such letters each year in future, subject to the ERCLT accounts showing a surplus for the year in question.

PROVOST

