

Minute of Reconvened Meeting North Strathclyde Community Justice Authority

Date	Time	Venue
Friday, 16 December 2016	10:30	Council Chambers (Renfrewshire), Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

PRESENT

Councillors Robertson (Argyll & Bute Council); O'Donnell (East Dunbartonshire Council); Lafferty (East Renfrewshire Council); Williams (Renfrewshire Council) and Casey (West Dunbartonshire Council).

CHAIR

Councillor Williams, Convener, presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

J Hunter, Chief Officer, W Kennedy, Planning Officer, V Quinn, Personal Assistant and F Cameron, Training Officer (all North Strathclyde Community Justice Authority); A Howard (Inverclyde Council); L Gaff and A O'Donnell (both East Renfrewshire Council); P Macleod, D Hawthorn, G McLachlan, L Mullin and E Currie (all Renfrewshire Council); N Firth (West Dunbartonshire Council) and A Haahr (Audit Scotland).

PARTNERS

F McKinnon and S Campbell (SACRO); D Abernethy (HMP Low Moss); C Winter, K Abercrombie and S Harkins (all Turning Point Scotland).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

K McCluskey, Chief Executive (Community Justice Scotland) and A Stewart (Scottish Government).

APOLOGY

Councillor McIlwee (Inverclyde Council).

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

1 MINUTE

There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Authority held on 10 June 2016.

DECIDED: That the Minute be approved.

2 REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING

There was submitted a joint revenue budget monitoring report by the Treasurer and the Chief Officer in respect of the Authority. The report intimated that expenditure on core services was anticipated to be £152,187 over budget and expenditure on non-core services was anticipated to be £22,726 under budget, which resulted in an anticipated £129,461 net overspend for the Authority.

Argyll, Bute and Dunbartonshire Criminal Justice Social Work Partnership was projecting an overspend of £129,461; East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire Councils were projecting a break-even position. Any over-spend at the year-end was required to be met by the relevant local authority.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

3 ADMINISTRATION GRANT REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING

There was submitted a joint administration grant revenue budget monitoring report by the Treasurer and the Chief Officer in respect of the Authority. The report intimated that expenditure against the administration grant was currently projected to result in a break-even position. Details of the projected expenditure were attached to the report.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

4 ADDITIONAL SECTION 27 GRANT ALLOCATION 2016/17 TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer relative to confirmation from the Scottish Government that the Authority's share of the additional £4million Section 27 funding would be £393,683. The letter from the Scottish Government, which as appended to the report, advised that the £4million was a resource transfer from the Scottish Prison Service for the purpose of reducing reoffending.

The report intimated that the Chief Officer had advised local authorities of their indicative allocation and these were detailed in the report.

DECIDED:

(a) That the report be noted; and

(b) That the allocation of the additional grant, as detailed in the report, be approved and the Treasurer be requested to make arrangements to align the payments.

5 NORTH STRATHCLYDE COMMUNITY JUSTICE AUTHORITY ACTION PLAN 2016/17

There was submitted a report by the Planning Officer relative to the North Strathclyde Community Justice Authority Action Plan 2016/17. The report intimated that the Authority was required to produce annual action plans to progress the overarching strategy of the 2014/17 area plan. There were 10 actions and 15 activities in the action plan and positive progress was being made .

DECIDED:

(a) That the report be noted; and

(b) That authority be delegated to the Chief Officer, in consultation with the Convener, to make any necessary amendments to the action plan if required.

6 COMMUNITY JUSTICE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2016 - PROGRESS REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer relative to the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 which would take forward the legislative change necessary to establish a new model for community justice.

The report provided information in relation to the National Justice Strategy; the National Outcomes and Performance Framework; the National Community Justice Guidance; the continued secondment of the Authority's Planning Officer to the Scottish Government to assist with the current review of electronic monitoring; the recent interviews for the positions of Convener and Chief Executive of Community Justice Scotland; the third national event for local partnership officers held on 27 June 2016; the Community Justice Authorities Disestablishment Guidance Document; Training and Development Officers and the new arrangements for funding the Turnaround Service from 1 April 2017.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

7 LOCAL AUTHORITY ANNUAL REPORTS

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer relative to annual reports 2015/16 by the Chief Social Work Officers of Argyll, Bute and Dunbartonshires' Criminal Justice Social Work Partnership; East Renfrewshire Council; Inverclyde Council; and Renfrewshire Council providing information to the Authority on services which had been provided under the grant funding arrangement. The report intimated that one of the functions of the Authority under Section 3(5)e of the Management of Offenders etc (Scotland) Act 2005 was to allocate to appropriate local authorities a grant in respect of Criminal Justice Social Work Services.

DECIDED: That the local authority annual reports 2015/16 be noted.

8 REDESIGN OF WOMEN'S CUSTODIAL ESTATE - PROGRESS REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer relative to the period of engagement carried out by the Scottish Government and the Scottish Prison Service to develop smaller regional and community based custodial facilities across the country.

The report intimated that the sites for the new community units had still to be decided but following a 'heat mapping' exercise to identify the post codes which historically provided the highest number of women prisoners, the Scottish Prison Service were seeking meetings with North Ayrshire, South Ayrshire, East Ayrshire, Glasgow City, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire, Edinburgh City, Dundee and Fife Councils to discuss potentially hosting a unit.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

9 NORTH STRATHCLYDE COMMUNITY JUSTICE AUTHORITY ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer relative to the North Strathclyde Community Justice Authority Annual Report for 2015/16. The report intimated that the Management of Offenders etc (Scotland) Act 2005 stated that Community Justice Authority (CJA) annual reports should be submitted as soon as practical after the end of each financial year. Accordingly, the Scottish Government had set a deadline of 30 September 2016 for submission of the 2015/16 annual reports. The format for the Authority Annual Report 2015/16 contained seven main sections and these were detailed in the report.

The Chief Officer had submitted the Annual Report 2015/16 to the Scottish Government by the deadline and the report sought homologation for this action.

DECIDED:

(a) That the report be noted; and

(b) That the Annual Report 2015/16 be approved and that the action taken by the Chief Officer in submitting the Annual Report to the Scottish Government by the deadline date of 30 September 2016 be homologated.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Authority resolved that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business as it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, that if members of the press and public were present, there could be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

All Authority staff left the meeting prior to consideration of the following item of business.

