

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILAUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE9 May 2024Report by ClerkMAINTENANCE OF PRIVATE LAND - CLARIFICATION**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To summarise the clarification received and circulated on queries raised at the meeting of the Committee on 22 February 2024 on the maintenance of private land.

RECOMMENDATION

2. It is recommended that the Committee notes the position.

REPORT

3. In June 2022, it was agreed to implement recommendations made by the Committee in April 2022 arising from its self-evaluation.

4. One of the self-evaluation observations made was that when queries on reports are raised at meetings, it is not always possible for answers to be provided at the meeting itself. Although the provision of clarification or assurances subsequently was considered acceptable, it was agreed, in the interests of transparency, that the Clerk should submit a summary of clarification received and circulated to the next meeting.

5. A related observation endorsed by the Committee in June 2022 and highlighted subsequently, was that it is useful, where possible, for Members to alert the Clerk or Chair in advance to issues they wish to raise at meetings. This is with a view to helping to ensure that answers can be requested, prepared and made available to the Committee where possible at its meetings, also in the interests of transparency. Members of the Committee are therefore encouraged to alert the Clerk or Chair to issues in advance to the extent possible.

6. Clarification provided on queries raised at the meeting on 22 February, which has already been circulated through correspondence, is itemised in Appendix 1.

RECOMMENDATION

7. It is recommended that the Committee notes the position.

Local Government Access to Information Act 1985

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Background Papers:-

1. Audit and Scrutiny Committee Agenda – 22 February 2024:-
[Internal Audit Plan - Progress Report - October To December 2023](#)

CLARIFICATION SOUGHT AND CIRCULATED FOLLOWING MEETING ON 22 FEBRUARY 2024

DATE OF MEETING AND ITEM	ITEM AND ISSUE(S) RAISED	CLARIFICATION
22 Feb 2024	<p data-bbox="443 443 1104 512"><u>INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN - PROGRESS REPORT OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2023</u></p> <p data-bbox="443 547 1104 778">It was agreed to seek feedback from the Environment Department in relation to the recommendation made on maintenance of private land referred to in the Environment Department Follow-Up Audit report, including on the accuracy of the estimated costs of this and capacity in future to review the contracts concerned.</p>	<p data-bbox="1144 443 2051 475">The Head of Environment (Operations) provided feedback as follows:-</p> <ul data-bbox="1189 515 2101 1230" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1189 515 2101 715">• The Audit Action has been updated, and a report was submitted to the Corporate Management Team (CMT) on 27 February. At this meeting, CMT provided approval to continue the maintenance of identified areas. A further report is to be brought to the CMT in 2024; after further checks on each piece of land has been carried out in conjunction with Legal Services; <li data-bbox="1189 754 2101 850">• Work has been undertaken to identify any anomalous land that appeared in 1997 contracts passed to the Council from the former Eastwood and Renfrew District Councils; <li data-bbox="1189 890 2101 962">• Those contracts ceased in 2005 when Commercial Operations/ Compulsory Competitive Tendering were removed by legislation; <li data-bbox="1189 1002 2101 1129">• To date, 84 small pieces of land have been identified with mixed ownership and responsibility. Some of these areas are held on the Sasines Register; work is underway with Legal Services to support a future CMT Report; and <li data-bbox="1189 1169 2101 1230">• The actual saving of stopping all this work has been calculated as £500 in fuel costs.

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