

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL
AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

20 June 2019

Report by Clerk

COMMITTEE'S SPECIALISATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEALING WITH
INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORTS AND INSPECTION REPORTS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To propose changes to the Committee's specialisation arrangements for dealing with internal and external audit reports and inspection reports.

RECOMMENDATION

2. It is recommended that the Committee considers balancing out more evenly the specialisation workload that is falling to each of its members as proposed.

BACKGROUND

3. In August 2017, following discussion and taking account of the distribution of aspects of the Committee's workload during the previous 5 years and also views expressed by members of the Committee, updated specialisation arrangements were approved for dealing with both inspection reports and external and internal audit reports, including those of a corporate nature or with a Council-wide focus. More specifically, it was confirmed which members of the Committee, working in pairs, would lead on specific matters and agreed to review the arrangements in due course.

4. Some changes to the Committee's membership have occurred since then as a consequence of which those more newly appointed to it simply took on the specialisation remit of those who had resigned. Otherwise, no other changes to the arrangements have been made thus far.

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO SPECIALISATION ARRANGEMENTS

5. At the end of 2018 the Committee was reminded of the intention to review its specialisation arrangements. It was explained that an analysis of reports dealt with since May 2017 had revealed that the workload was unbalanced, with some Elected Members having dealt with more reports than others. Consequently it was agreed to seek further feedback from members of the Committee on the analysis and related issues with a view to submitting proposals to a future meeting.

6. Members of the Committee were invited to submit comments and observations on a possible reconfiguration of responsibilities and related issues, such as on the extent to which any might wish to change their current remit. To assist, the list of current specialisation responsibilities (see Paragraph 7 below) was provided together with a further list itemising over 30 reports published and dealt with thus far; and a summary of the number dealt with by each Elected Member. No members of the Committee provided feedback, when asked, that suggested they were proactively seeking any change of remit.

NUMBER & TYPES OF REPORTS DEALT WITH, & APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF REPORTS TO BE DEALT WITH, BY MEMBERS UNDER THE COMMITTEE'S CURRENT SPECIALISATION ARRANGEMENTS FROM 2017 TO 2022

In each case, the number of reports dealt with thus far by each Member is provided. Below that, in each case, the approximate total number of reports expected to be dealt with between May 2017 and the next local authority elections, if the current arrangements remain in place and unchanged has also been provided.

	Reports with Council-Wide Focus	Chief Executive's Dept.	Corporate & Community Services Dept.	Environment Dept.	HSCP	Education Dept.	TOTAL FOR MEMBER
Cllr S Miller (Chair)	8 <i>(Approx 20)</i>						8 <i>(Approx 20)</i>
Cllr B Grant (Vice-Chair)	8 <i>(Approx 20)</i>						8 <i>(Approx 20)</i>
Prov J Fletcher		6 <i>(Approx 15)</i>			6 <i>(Approx 15)</i>		12 <i>(Approx 30)</i>
Cllr C Gilbert				3 <i>(Approx 10)</i>	6 <i>(Approx 15)</i>	5 <i>(Approx 15)</i>	14 <i>(Approx 40)</i>
Cllr A Ireland		6 <i>(Approx 15)</i>		3 <i>(Approx 10)</i>		5 <i>(Approx 15)</i>	14 <i>(Approx 40)</i>
Cllr J McLean			5 <i>(Approx 15)</i>				5 <i>(Approx 15)</i>
Cllr J Swift			5 <i>(Approx 15)</i>				5 <i>(Approx 15)</i>

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