

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL
AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21 November 2019

Report by Chief Executive

EAST RENFREWSHIRE CULTURE AND LEISURE TRUST
BEST VALUE-TYPE REVIEW

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To provide the Audit and Scrutiny Committee with the scope and timeline of the Best Value-type Review of East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust.

RECOMMENDATION

2. It is recommended that the Audit and Scrutiny Committee notes the scope and timeline of the Best Value-type Review of the East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust, as shown in the Appendix.

BACKGROUND

3. The Audit and Scrutiny Committee on 15 August 2019, approved the deletion of the audit of the operation of the East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust from the 2019/20 Internal Audit Plan. This was agreed on the basis proposed, in respect of which the Scrutiny and Evaluation Officer would progress a Best Value-type review of the Trust, the findings of which would be reported to the committee in due course.

SCOPE AND TIMELINE

4. Following normal audit procedures, the scope and timeline of the Best Value-type review of East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust were agreed in October 2019 by the Chief Executive and Director of Education of East Renfrewshire Council, and the Chief Executive of East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust.

5. The scope and timeline for the Best Value-type review is provided for the committee to note, as an appendix to this report. The review will commence in January and conclude in March 2020, with the findings to be reported to a future meeting of the committee.

CONCLUSION

6. The review will inform what has worked well since the formation of the Trust in 2015, and what could be improved going forward. This will include how culture and leisure services can best contribute to the Community Plan (including a Fairer East Renfrewshire). Through sharing of information and objectives, the review has the potential for East Renfrewshire Council, and East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust, to gain greater understanding and knowledge of their respective roles and responsibilities.

RECOMMENDATION

7. It is recommended that the Audit and Scrutiny Committee notes the scope and timeline of the Best Value-type Review of the East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust, as shown in the Appendix.

Chief Executive
4 November 2019

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Background Papers

Report by Chief Executive to Audit and Scrutiny Committee, 15 August 2019: Potential Areas for Scrutiny and Review Investigations

Report by Chief Executive to Audit and Scrutiny Committee, 26 September 2019: Audit and Scrutiny Committee Work Plan

East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust: Best Value-type Review

Date: October 2019

Prepared by: Charles Leleux, Scrutiny and Evaluation Officer, Chief Executive's Office

Topic Area	Action
Scope of review	<p>The scope of the best value-type review has been agreed jointly between the Chief Executive and Director of Education of East Renfrewshire Council (ERC), and the Chief Executive of the East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust (ERCLT).</p> <p>The ERCLT was formed in 2015, with the aim of providing improved culture and leisure services to the residents of East Renfrewshire, and achieving financial benefits through the formation of a charity, with the potential for savings on Non-Domestic Rates and VAT. After three full years of operation, a best value-type review of ERCLT will be undertaken to determine what has worked well in the formation of the Trust, and what areas could be improved going forward.</p> <p>The review will take into account the planned leisure centre in Eastwood Park, and the closure of facilities for maintenance and improvement.</p> <p>A learning and partnership approach will be used to undertake the review, with the focus on how culture and leisure services can best contribute to the Community Plan (including a Fairer East Renfrewshire). This will involve at each stage: open discussions and sharing of information and objectives, to allow both ERC and ERCLT to gain greater understanding and knowledge of their respective roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>The review will be undertaken primarily by desktop, although the Scrutiny and Evaluation Officer will meet ERCLT coordinators for finance, performance, and marketing. Visits will take place to libraries, halls, sports centres and theatre/arts venues to talk with ERCLT employees about the services which they provide, and how the relationship is working with ERC, particularly in respect of the individual SLAs.</p>

Timescale for Review	Commence: January 2020 Conclude : March 2020 Report to Audit and Scrutiny Committee: To be agreed.
Performance Information	<p>Consider: baseline data from 2015 to 2019 of customer activity and visitor numbers across all areas; performance indicators from 2015, including benchmarking data, as evidence of continuous improvement, and customer satisfaction rates.</p> <p>Consider other evidence of continuous improvement and service re-design of Trust activities, involving customer engagement and participation, since 2015.</p> <p>Consider evidence of improvement in health and wellbeing across the East Renfrewshire community since 2015, and correlate with the involvement of ERCLT where possible. A general assessment will be based on outputs. However, if there is scope to develop more meaningful indicators as a natural progression of existing work at a later stage, then that could be the subject of further discussion.</p>
Governance	<p>Review the legal agreement between ERC and ERCLT having regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suitability of the Trust model to deliver (1) efficiency savings in line with ERC annual targets, and (2) annual savings on Non-Domestic rates and VAT, in accordance with original objectives. - Evidence of the ongoing contribution of ERCLT to ERC goals and community planning objectives, including exploring the scope to make more explicit some of the wider contributions which ERCLT could be expected to make. - The agility of the Trust model to deliver transformational change across ERCLT facilities and services, and whether or not the Trust is best served by ERC support services in this regard, such as Property and Technical Services
Joint working between ERC and core activities of ERCLT	Consider opportunities for further collaboration between ERC, HSCP and ERCLT which have the potential to provide improved services and outcomes for the residents of East Renfrewshire, and which should be considered in more detail in the future.
Value for Money	Consider evidence of value for money being achieved by both ERC and ERCLT, including within the individual SLAs for delivery of core services.