

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL  
AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

26 September 2019

Report by Chief Executive

INVESTIGATION ON INCOME GENERATION AND COMMERCIALISATION:  
UPDATE ON PROGRESS

1. To provide a further update to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee on progress with the investigation on income generation and commercialisation opportunities.

### RECOMMENDATION

2. It is recommended that the committee notes the content of the report in relation to the latest progress with the investigation on income generation and commercialisation opportunities, within East Renfrewshire Council.

### BACKGROUND

3. At its most recent meeting on 15 August, the committee noted that a range of meetings with the Council's departments and services to gather information and take evidence, would take place during August and September 2019. A final report with recommendations would be submitted to the meeting of the committee on 21 November 2019.

### PROGRESS TO DATE

4. Informal meetings have now taken place between the Audit and Scrutiny Committee and East Renfrewshire Council departments and services during August and September, to discuss their current and planned approaches to income generation and commercialisation. Members of the committee have been actively involved in scrutiny work associated with these meetings, gathering information and taking evidence. Details of the meetings are provided below:

Department	Date of Meeting
Corporate and Community Services	23 August 2019
Chief Executive's Office	26 August 2019
Education Department	9 September 2019
Environment Department	13 September 2019

5. The Scrutiny and Evaluation Officer issued an information note on 21 August 2019 to members of the committee, containing some early draft material on commercialisation guidance available from national organisations, and examples of income generation activities of other councils, both in Scotland and England, including some related comments. Some of the content from this note will form part of the wider report which will be prepared for the committee to consider at the meeting on 21 November.

6. The questions asked by the committee were centred around common themes which had been discussed with the departments in advance, including: how annual savings targets are being met each year; the ways in which external income is currently being generated; how a culture of commercialisation is being introduced within departments; protecting the interests of East Renfrewshire citizens, and the Council's reputation; examples of savings, or other benefits gained, for example by working with other councils, partners, or the business community; and which new commercialisation opportunities departments or services intended to introduce.

## **NEXT STEPS**

7. A final informal meeting of the committee will be arranged during October 2019, at which the information gathered and evidence taken from the meetings with departments will be discussed, and allow the committee to form provisional recommendations.

8. The Scrutiny and Evaluation Officer will prepare a report for the committee to consider at the meeting to be held on 21 November. This will summarise the work of the investigation, and provide recommendations based upon the views of members, one of which will be that the report recommendations are considered at a future meeting of the Cabinet.

## **CONCLUSION**

9. This review area has the potential to generate new income streams, which may assist the Council in several areas: financial planning now and for the future; demonstrating financial responsibility to the East Renfrewshire community; delivering Best Value; sustaining or improving service levels for local citizens and customers; developing stronger links with businesses and organisations; developing collaborative links with other Councils; and self-awareness of where the Council is positioned, in terms of benchmarking information.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

10. It is recommended that the committee notes the content of the report in relation to the latest progress with the investigation on income generation and commercialisation opportunities, within East Renfrewshire Council.

Chief Executive  
11 September 2019

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### Background Papers

Report by Chief Executive to Audit and Scrutiny Committee, 20 June 2019: Proposed Guide to Scrutiny and Review

Report by Chief Executive to Audit and Scrutiny Committee, 15 August 2019: Investigation on Income Generation and Commercialisation – Update on Progress