

ITEM 4.1: RESEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Purpose

1. To update the Council on the meeting of the Research Committee held on 24 November 2016 and to provide the Council with the Committee's recommendations.

Background

2. At the last meeting on 14 September the Council agreed to establish a Research Committee. The Committee met for the first time on 24 November 2016. Minutes of this meeting have been provided to the Council as **Paper 4.1D**.

Discussion

Chair and Quorum

3. Professor Hutton was elected to chair the Committee.
4. A quorum of two members plus the chair was agreed.

Principles and Purposes Literature Review

5. The Committee considered the timetable for possible approaches to procure an independent literature review of principles and purposes. The Committee felt that Stephen O'Rourke's literature review [**Paper 3.1C**] met the needs of the Council and agreed that it would be preferable for the judiciary to receive the same information as the public. Therefore the Committee agreed to recommend to the Council that they do not pursue commissioning an external literature review.

Ph.D. Internships and Youth Offending Project

6. The Committee discussed the changes to the Ph.D. internship programme start dates [**Papers 4.1A, 4.1B and 4.1C**]. The Committee agreed that there remained a value in pursuing Ph.D. internships and agreed to recommend a project looking at public perceptions of youth offending to the Council [**Paper 4.1C**]. The Committee further

recommended that this project was worth pursuing through other commissioning methods, if the Ph.D. scheme proved unworkable in the short term.

Recommendation

7. Members are invited to:

- a) **note the minutes of the Research Committee meeting;**
- b) **agree not to pursue an external literature review of the principles and purposes of sentencing; and,**
- c) **agree to undertake research on the public perceptions of youth offending, ideally through the Ph.D. internship scheme if possible.**

Scottish Sentencing Council Secretariat

November 2016