

OVERVIEW SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday 4 September

Councillor M. Hope (Chair)

Councillors: R F Collis (a) C J Powell
 P A Hughes M Weisz
 B. Miller (guest)

Officers in attendance: J Ansell, Stephen Bray, Helen Lee

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Collis

TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 JUNE 2012

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the above meeting, having been circulated, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION: NETHERFIELD BINS

Members were updated on the Councillor Call for Action submitted by Councillor Miller on the Collection of bins in Netherfield. Members were informed by Caroline McKenzie, Service Manager, Waste Services that there had been a concerted effort by waste officers delivering letters, talking to people, stickering bins and a newsletter had been delivered to all households. These initiatives have brought about a marked improvement which in some areas had been maintained, but in other areas there was still a problem.

Members concluded that:

- efforts to maintain and improve behaviours should be continue
- that if there are persistent offenders the use of fixed penalty notices should not be ruled out

RESOLVED:

- i) that monitoring would continue to identify persistent offenders and problem streets
- ii) to recommend that the process for issuing fixed penalty notices be considered
- iii) that schools should be contacted to explore the possibility of designing posters
- iv) that a final report would be prepared for the Overview Committee which would then be submitted to Cabinet for a response. This would follow the usual scrutiny review follow up process.

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME REVIEW

Members were presented with a progress report on the work of the Policy and Performance Committees. This included the following items for consideration:

- On Street Parking Review
- The Councils Engagement with the Voluntary Sector
- The Restructure of the NHS follow up
- Sustainability Review 2 : The Council Role as a Community leader promoting sustainability and how we use the tools we have in Planning strategy
- A Hackney Carriage Review
- Corporate Directors attendance at Performance Scrutiny Committees to enable Members to be informed about successes and challenges in particular service areas.
- The Scrutiny Work Plan

RESOLVED

- to request that clarification of technical information in the On Street Parking Review is made available at the next Overview meeting.
- that the review of the Councils Engagement with the Voluntary Sector can commence.

- That the Restructure of the NHS follow up review would commence when the delivery structure of the new Clinical Commissioning Groups are in place at the end of the year.
- Sustainability Review 2: The Council Role as a Community leader promoting sustainability and how we use the tools we have in Planning strategy would be deferred until the Sustainability Action Plan has been developed and is available for examination.
- A review of Hackney Carriages would consider some of the punitive regulations that currently exist and disability access when using taxis. It was suggested that Councillor Paling chair this review, and that it would commence when the resources are available to facilitate it.

ANNUAL TEA AND SCRUTINY REVIEW AND EVALUATION REPORT

Following the event a number of actions were discussed as follows:

- whether follow up reviews should be carried out by the Committees, rather than by reconvening the working groups.
- how Scrutiny could become more proactive and embedded in the policy making process, following comments made at the event that Scrutiny should have a greater profile when policy decisions are made.

RESOLVED

- That, in future, 6 monthly reviews would not reconvene the original working group of the review, but instead the Portfolio Holder would be asked to attend the Overview Committee to enable the monitoring of the progress of recommendations, and a standard template would be created to allow the Portfolio Holder to feed back efficiently on progress. This may also necessitate the Service Manager to attend to provide a more detailed knowledge of the service area.
- That a meeting be arranged between the Chair of Overview, the Leader and Deputy Leader to establish some new protocols in working more closely with Cabinet.