



Civic Centre,  
Arnot Hill Park,  
Arnold,  
Nottinghamshire,  
NG5 6LU

# Agenda

## Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: **Monday 14 July 2014**

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Time: **5.30 pm**

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Place: **Reception Room**

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For any further information please contact:

**Jane Ansell**

Members' Services

0115 901 3627

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# Overview and Scrutiny Committee

## Membership

**Chair**                      Councillor Mike Hope

**Vice-Chair**                Councillor Gary Gregory

Councillor Patricia Andrews  
Councillor Sandra Barnes  
Councillor Paul Feeney  
Councillor Cheryl Hewlett  
Councillor Paul Hughes  
Councillor Lynda Pearson  
Councillor Stephen Poole  
Councillor Colin Powell  
Councillor Suzanne Prew-Smith  
Councillor Nick Quilty  
Councillor John Truscott

## **AGENDA**

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- 1 Apologies for Absence.**
- 2 To approve, as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2014.** 1 - 6
- 3 Declaration of Interests.**
- 4 Scrutiny Work Programme 2014/15** 7 - 18
- 5 Items referred to the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee as required under the Constitution or Law** 19 - 20
- 6 Any other item which the Chair considers urgent.**

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## MINUTES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday 12 May 2014

Councillor Mike Hope (Chair)

Councillor Gary Gregory  
Councillor Sandra Barnes  
Councillor Paul Feeney  
Councillor Cheryl Hewlett

Councillor Lynda Pearson  
Councillor Colin Powell  
Councillor John Truscott

Apologies for absence: Councillor Patricia Andrews, Councillor Paul Hughes, Councillor Suzanne Prew-Smith and Councillor Nick Quilty

Officers in Attendance: J Ansell, S Bray and P Darlington

Guests in Attendance Councillor Darrell Pulk

### 41 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P. Andrews, Hughes, Prew-Smith and Quilty.

### 42 TO APPROVE, AS A CORRECT RECORD, THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 10 MARCH AND 29 APRIL 2014

#### RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the above meetings, having been circulated, be approved as a correct record.

### 43 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

None received.

### 44 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME REPORT 2013/14

#### i) Rolling Programme of Portfolio Holder Holding to Account

The Chair welcomed Councillor Pulk, Portfolio Holder, Leisure and Development, and Paula Darlington, Corporate Director, who had been invited to respond to questions on the following areas of the Leisure and Development Portfolio: **The Planning Process and Town Centres Strategy.**

### **Advance questions received from Members:**

1. Given that GBC has spent public money on obtaining advice from URS regarding the best place to build, what to build and necessary infrastructure related to developments in Calverton, Ravenshead and Bestwood and given that the number of houses in each village has been decided, what is the sense of considering planning applications in these villages before the URS report has been received and considered?
2. What is the point of taking green belt land and designating it as white or safeguarded land unless it is to point developers at land that could be useful to them?

### **Response of Portfolio Holder and Corporate Director: The Strategic Planning Process**

Before answering the specific questions raised by Scrutiny the Portfolio Holder placed the Strategic Planning Process into context. Key stages outlined as below:

- Develop a Core Strategy which details areas of development to take place and all the policies which support and control development.
- Gedling has produced an Aligned Strategy with Broxtowe and Nottingham City and this was submitted to the Planning Inspector for examination in late 2013.
- Inspector suggested some modification and Gedling responded with some amendments that the Inspector wished us to re consult on.
- Consultation on the modifications ended last week and we are in the process of submitting these to the Planning Inspector.
- If the Inspector finds the Core Strategy sound then it will go to Full Council about July 2014 for adoption.

The Council has to produce a **Local Plan**

- The Local Plan comprises of the Core Strategy and the Local Planning Document.
- **The Local Planning Document** comprises of site allocations for the key villages and Development Control Policies.

During consultation on the Core Strategy the Council committed to undertaking further consultation with the 3 key villages to determine views on exact locations for development and the resulting infrastructure requirement.

- The Council secured £30k of Growth Point Funding and used that money to employ a company named URS to produce master

plans which would be evidence for public the site specific allocations in consultation with the key 3 villages.

- That consultation has now ended and the results have been shared with the consultees.

The Portfolio Holder and Corporate Director then specifically answered the questions raised by Scrutiny as follows:

### **Question 1**

#### **Response: Corporate Director**

- In an ideal world we would have the Core Strategy, the Local Planning Document and therefore the Local Plan adopted before any development take place, however, legally we have to deal with planning applications when and as they are submitted.
- If we do not deal with planning applications in a timely manner then they will be taken out of the Council's hand and determined by the Secretary of State without any influence by the Council.

A key consideration is PREMATUREITY, but the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) identifies circumstances when prematurity may be an issue is when;

- The application is so substantial that it would predetermine decisions about scale, location or phasing of new development  
AND
- The Local Plan is at an advanced stage but not yet adopted.

Whilst Gedling's Core strategy is at an advance state (likely adoption July 2014), the Local Planning Document is not (likely to go to Full Council for adoption towards the end of 2015) so Prematurity would not apply.

We also have to maintain a 5 year land supply; currently Gedling only has a 3 year supply which means it would be more difficult to refuse development coming forward now.

### **Question 2**

#### **Response: Portfolio Holder**

At the end of the process we will have a map which details those areas of land that have been allocated for development. This will point developers to those areas allocated.

If we do not have land allocated to meet the need we will not be able to resist development anywhere in the Borough.

The Aligned Core Strategy details development until 2028. However there is a need to continually review the need for housing. The numbers required will be subject to change over the life of the Core Strategy and beyond if evidence, i.e. the Census figures for population growth, should indicate a greater need.

### **General overview: Town Centres Strategy – Corporate Director**

The Corporate Director provided the following overview of the Council's approach to Town Centres:

- There have been limited resources for the development of a Town Centres Strategy, and this year the priority for Economic Development has been Employment and Skills.
- In the recent past, the Council has provided grants to businesses for shop front improvements, and the 2 hour free parking provided at a cost of £350, 000 per annum continues to help revitalise local shopping areas.
- In addition, new car park charging arrangements will be introduced allowing long stay parking facilities at reduced rates.
- The recent 1.3m investment in Arnold Leisure Centre is anticipated to contribute significantly to the economic upturn in Arnold, and consideration is being given to the merging of Redhill LC and Arnold LC at the Arnold Town Centre site.
- Work has commenced with developers to identify the next steps to increasing footfall in Arnold.
- A new Economic Development Officer post has been created.
- There are now fewer 'void' (empty) retail shops in the Borough.

### **ii) Future Programme of Portfolio Holder attendance**

The Chair reminded Members of the attendance of Councillor Fox, Portfolio Holder for Community Development at the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and raised the importance of Members submitting a range of questions in advance of the meeting.

The Chair proposed that the Senior Elections and Members Services Officer be asked to liaise with Portfolio Holders and Corporate Directors to identify a new rolling programme of Portfolio Holder holding to account from October 2014 onwards.

### **iii) In depth Scrutiny updates**

The Senior Elections and Members' Services Officer updated Members on the progress of the two current in -depth Scrutiny Reviews 'Reducing Unemployment in the Borough' and 'Homelessness and Hardship in the Borough'.

Members were informed that both working groups will report their findings to the October Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

### **iv) New In Depth Review**

The Chair proposed that a third review, 'Transport links to, and within, the Borough' be appointed to commence in June, and requested nominations both from the Committee and from wider non – executive Members.

#### **RESOLVED to:**

- i. Thank the Portfolio Holder and Corporate Director for their attendance.
- ii. Direct the Senior Elections and Members' Services Officer to prepare an ongoing programme of Portfolio Holder holding to account.
- iii. Note the updates received on progress of in-depth Scrutiny Working Groups.
- iv. Appoint Councillors Pearson, Feeney and Truscott to the 'Transport links to, and within, the Borough' in depth Scrutiny working group and request nominations from wider non-executive Members.

**45**

#### **REPORTS AND NOTICES RECEIVED BY THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AS REQUIRED UNDER CONSTITUTIONAL LAW.**

Members considered a list of items referred to the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee under the Constitution or Law.

These included:

Notification of decision to dispose of land or property other than the sale of council houses to sitting tenants pursuant to the right to buy.

- Transfer of land at the junction of Church Road and Chestnut Grove, Burton Joyce (the Land) together with the toilets erected thereon to Burton Joyce Parish Council (the Parish Council) and pay a contribution of £2,500 towards demolition

costs.

- Surrender of lease of land at St Wilfred's Square, Calverton. Purchase of same land at St Wilfred's Square, Calverton and then to transfer this land together with the toilets erected thereon to Calverton Parish Council.

**RESOLVED:**

To note the items referred to the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee under the Constitution or Law.

**46 ANY OTHER ITEM WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT.**

None.

The meeting finished at 7.35pm

Signed by Chair:

Date:



**Report to:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Subject:** Scrutiny Work Programme 2014/15

**Date:** 14 July 2014

**Author:** Senior Members' Services Officer

## **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To consider the Portfolio of Councillor Fox, Portfolio Holder for Community Development, as part of the rolling programme of Portfolio Holder holding to account.

To receive updates on year end 2013/14 Council performance and agree the 2014/15 Scrutiny work programme.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

At the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in August 2013 Members agreed a programme of attendance by Portfolio Holders and relevant Corporate Directors at committee and also identified which areas of performance within each Portfolio they would like to examine. It was further agreed that questions for Portfolio Holders should be submitted in advance of each meeting, however 'ad hoc' questions may be put forward at the meeting itself.

This committee has elected to consider the following elements of the Community Development Portfolio:

### **Neighbourhood working / Locality Coordination**

A customised 'Covalent' report detailing the performance outcomes of the Community Development Portfolio is **attached at Appendix 1 and 1.1.**

2.1 Advance questions received from Members:

- a. How far has the Localities initiative proved to be 'Value for Money'?
- b. Do we have improved figures (indices of deprivation etc.) to justify the cost?

- c. Does Gedling intend to continue Localities working in the form it is, bearing in mind that one of the two Localities Coordinators now splits her time between Newstead and Killisick?

### **3. COUNCIL PLAN 2013/14: OVERVIEW OF YEAR- END PERFORMANCE**

Stephen Bray, Corporate Director will provide an overview of Quarter 4 2013/14 performance and take questions from Members.

### **4. 2014/15 PROGRAMME OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER ATTENDANCE**

The 2013/14 programme of Portfolio Holder attendance has now been completed and a draft programme has been compiled for the forthcoming year.

**Draft Programme attached: Appendix 2.**

Members are asked to consider which specific areas of each Portfolio they would like to examine in more detail at each meeting. The subject areas marked in bold are those which have not yet been examined by Scrutiny as part of the rolling programme.

### **5. IN DEPTH SCRUTINY**

The in - depth working groups at 4.1 and 4.2 are coming to the end of their evidence gathering meetings with Portfolio Holders, Corporate Directors, partners and stakeholders and are considering their findings and recommendations.

The recommendations of both reviews will be reported to the December Scrutiny Committee.

#### **4.1 Reducing unemployment in the Borough**

**Working Group Members:** Councillors Bailey (chair), Wheeler, R. Ellis, R. Allan, Gregory P. Andrews, B Andrews, Hewson, Hughes, Parr.

**Latest meeting: Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

The meeting was attended by David Drury, consultant to the Employment and Skills Group, who presented proposals for bids for European Funding to address youth unemployment.

Councillors Gregory, P. Andrews and Hewson fed back in their attendance at the most recent Employment and Skills Group meeting.

## **4.2 Homelessness and hardship in the Borough**

**Working Group members:** Councillors Lawrence (Chair), Weisz, Blair, Paling, Hope, P. Allan, Bexon, Hewson, Hughes, Parr.

**Latest meeting: Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

At the meeting, Councillors Lawrence, Hope and Hewson reported back on a day of fact finding visits to Children's Centres and Elizabeth House, attended on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June.

Two more meetings will be scheduled in September and October as follows:

- a) Meeting with County Council representatives to consider the impact of the Supporting People budget reductions.
- b) Meeting with RCAN and the CCG to consider rural poverty issues and the role of the Health Authority in addressing issues relating to hardship.

## **4.3 New Scrutiny Review: Transport Links to, and within, the Borough.**

**Working Group members:** Feeney, Paling, Pearson, Truscott, D. Ellis, P. Andrews and G. Clarke.

A meeting to scope this review has been scheduled as follows:

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 4.30pm – 6pm in the Committee Room**

Stephen Bray, Corporate Director will be in attendance to provide an overview of key transport issues and upcoming travel planning initiatives.

## **6. 6 MONTH FOLLOW UP ON COMPLETED REVIEWS**

Six month follow up requests will shortly be issued to relevant Portfolio Holders on the **accepted** recommendations of the following completed reviews:

- The Council's engagement with the Voluntary Sector
- Inclusion and Equality
- Taxi Licensing

The follow up responses will be tabled at the September Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

## **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members:

- Put forward relevant questions to the Cabinet Member attending in respect of the Community Development Portfolio.
- To note year end performance against the Council Plan 2013/14.
- Finalise the forward programme of Portfolio Holder holding to account.
- Note the progress of in depth Scrutiny working groups.

# Community Development Portfolio Performance Report Quarter 4 2013/14

## Actions

Action Status	
	Cancelled
	Overdue; Neglected
	Unassigned; Check Progress
	Not Started; In Progress; Assigned
	Completed

Title	Managed By	Status	Completion Date	Progress Bar	Notes
Expand Citizens' Advice Bureau Service by an extra day	Mark Lane		30-Sep-2013		
Develop and implement locality plans to address disadvantage in Netherfield and Newstead	Alison Bennett		30-Sep-2013		
Develop strategy for future provision of Community Centres	Jayne Cox		31-Mar-2014		



## Indicators

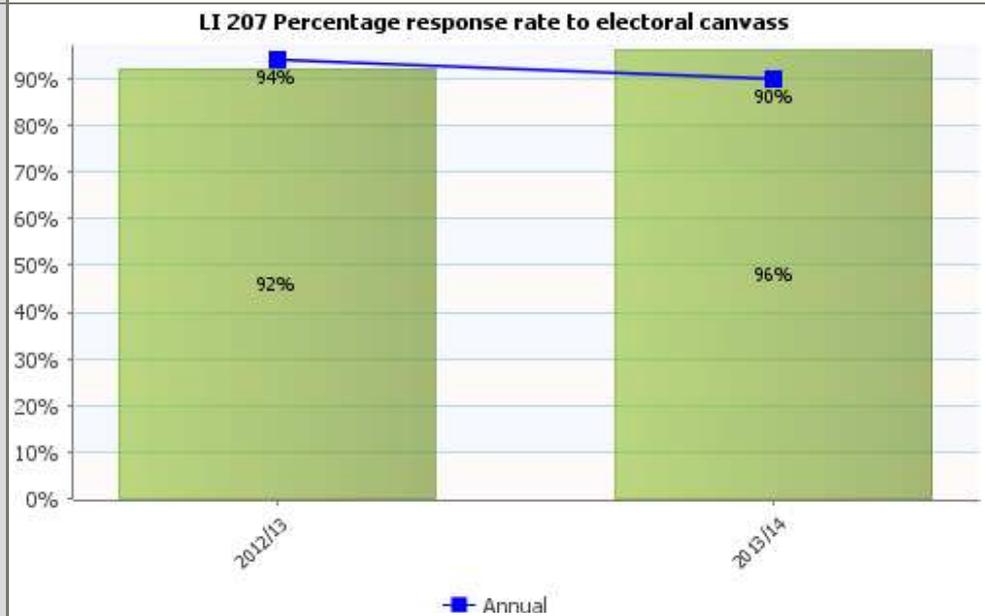
PI Status		Long Term Trends		Short Term Trends	
	Alert		Improving		Improving
	Warning		No Change		No Change
	OK		Getting Worse		Getting Worse
	Unknown				
	Data Only				

### LI 207 Percentage response rate to electoral canvass

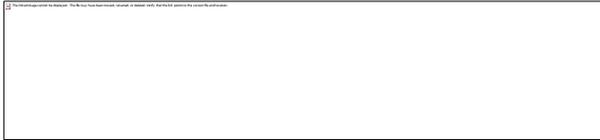
<b>Managed By</b>	Alec Dubberley	<b>Status</b>	
<b>Current Value</b>	<b>Current Target</b>	<b>Trend compared to last period</b>	<b>Trend compared to year ago</b>
96%	90%		

#### Latest Note

#### Performance against target







## Council Plan 2014/15

### Portfolio Holder - Community Development

Action	Portfolio	Council Objective
Develop and Implement agreed strategy for future provision of community centres	Community Development Portfolio	Mitigate the impact of budget reductions by maximising efficiency and effectiveness
Maximise electoral registration through Individual Electoral Registration	Community Development Portfolio	Promote and encourage pride and participation in the local area
Establish Gedling Youth Council and encourage young people to participate	Community Development Portfolio	Promote and encourage pride and participation in the local area
Identify and implement practical ways for local residents to inform and influence decisions that affect them	Community Development Portfolio	Promote and encourage pride and participation in the local area
Performance Indicator	Portfolio	Council Objective
LI 207 Percentage response rate to electoral canvass	Community Development Portfolio	Promote and encourage pride and participation in the local area

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**ROLLING PROGRAMME OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER CHALLENGE 2014/15**

<b>Date of Committee</b>	<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	<b>Subject areas available (bold items have not recently been considered)</b>
<p><b>Monday 29 September 2014 Reception room</b></p>	<p><b>Councillor Barnes</b></p>	<p><b>Environment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste management</li> <li>• <b>Maintenance and development of the public realm, including parks, open spaces, cemeteries and allotments</b></li> <li>• Energy management and sustainability</li> <li>• <b>Maintenance and provision of public buildings, including car parks</b></li> <li>• <b>Asset management strategy, including the Council's investment property, sales and purchase of land</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Monday 15 December 2014 Reception room</b></p>	<p><b>Councillor Payne</b></p>	<p><b>Public Protection and Communications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Crime reduction and community safety</b></li> <li>• <b>Emergency planning</b></li> <li>• <b>Environmental health and protection, including food safety and private sector housing</b></li> <li>• Communications, marketing and promotion</li> <li>• Media relations</li> <li>• <b>Customer services, information and communications technology</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Wednesday 11 February Committee room</b>  (please note change of date and venue)</p>	<p><b>Councillor Pulk</b></p>	<p><b>Leisure and Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning policy, development management and building control</li> <li>• <b>Leisure centres, arts and culture</b></li> <li>• <b>Sports development</b></li> <li>• <b>Tourism and transportation</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Monday 13 April Reception Room</b></p>	<p><b>Councillor Wheeler</b></p>	<p><b>Health and Housing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaison with public health and clinical commissioning group</li> <li>• Homelessness and housing needs</li> <li>• <b>Housing and council tax benefits</b></li> <li>• Housing strategy</li> <li>• <b>Safeguarding</b></li> </ul>

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## **Reports and Notices received by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee as required under the Constitution or Law.**

### **1. Items referred to the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee under Contract Standing orders and Standing orders for dealing with Land**

Notifications received where it has not been possible to obtain 3 quotations for a contract estimated to be between £10,000 and £50,000.

- Waiver of Contract Standing Orders in order to enable the Council to enter into a contract for a Facilities Planning Model assessment with Sport England.

### **2. Items referred to Scrutiny under the Budget and Policy Framework**

- None received

### **3. Items where the Executive proposes to take a key decision without it being published (on the Forward Plan) for at least 28 days. (New Local Authorities Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.**

- None received

Please note that the above list may not be exhaustive; items may be referred at short notice to the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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