

**MINUTES
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Monday 29 July 2024

Councillor Catherine Pope (Chair)

Councillor Roy Allan	Councillor Grahame Pope
Councillor Lorraine Brown	Councillor Kyle Robinson-Payne
Councillor Andrew Dunkin	Councillor Martin Smith
Councillor Rachael Ellis	Councillor Sam Smith
Councillor Roxanne Ellis	Councillor Russell Whiting
Councillor Paul Feeney	

Apologies for absence: Councillor David Brocklebank and Councillor Michelle Welsh

Officers in Attendance: M Hill, E McGinlay, K Nealon and S Palmer

Guests in Attendance: Councillor David Ellis

55 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brocklebank and Welsh. Councillor Feeney attended as substitute.

56 TO APPROVE, AS A CORRECT RECORD, THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 APRIL 2024.

RESOLVED:

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

57 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

Councillors Rachael Ellis and Roxanne Ellis declared an interest in item 4, having a personal connection to the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection.

58 PROGRAMME OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER ATTENDANCE.

Councillor Brown joined the meeting.

Members welcomed Councillor David Ellis, Portfolio Holder for Public Protection to the meeting to examine his portfolio. Councillor Ellis

gave an update to members on some key happenings within his portfolio.

No questions were received from Members in advance of the meeting, so Councillor Ellis delivered an update on the various areas of responsibility within his portfolio. He gave the following updates:

It was noted that there were 23,000 fewer police officers and staff nationally than there were in 2010 with the number of police community support officers (PCSOs) having dropped by more than half. Members noted that the number of police officers had increased by 20,000 between 2019 and 2022.

Members noted the three Local policing priorities in Gedling:

- Operation Silverbirch - tackling Anti-Social Behaviour and knife crime in Arnold
- Operation Spearshaft - tackling Drug supply and Child Criminal Exploitation in Calverton
- Operation Battlescar - tackling Serious Acquisitive Crime in Daybrook.

It was noted that the Police and Crime Commissioner was looking for views on the upcoming Police and Crime Plan, which aimed to improve outcomes for minority communities, young people and improve police responses and investigations. The consultation runs until 2 September 2024 and Members were asked to respond.

Members noted that there were 689 food businesses within the borough and 96% were either 4 or 5 stars (good or very good). Roughly 4% were generally satisfactory at 3 stars and members noted that there were no properties within the borough with less than 3 stars.

Members were informed of the variety of health and safety investigations which had taken place across various licensed practices and businesses within the borough such as beauty salons, animal welfare centres and funeral director visits. Proactive initiatives had also taken place such as coffee machine or gas safety checks in catering kitchens and cellar door inspections within pubs.

Members noted the work of the Private Housing team which includes:

- Selective Licensing – ensuring landlords kept their properties to a fit and proper standard for residents.
- Disabled Facilities Grants – ensuring residents with reduced mobility and other health concerns could access funding to refit properties with safety rails, washrooms and other provisions.
- Damp and mould action plan – developing and publishing an enforcement policy, mitigating the harmful effects of damp and mould.

- Retrofitting homes – Improving energy efficiency across the borough with the goal of meeting net zero ambitions and driving down fuel bills.

The Chair then gave Members the opportunity to ask questions of the portfolio holder.

Members noted that many sole traders advertised availability for various beauty treatments on social media platforms and queried whether the council proactively sought them out or whether the council relied on local reporting to conduct health and safety checks.

The Food Health and Housing Manager confirmed that the council had relied on local reporting and complaints as well as other businesses bringing them to the council's attention.

Members queried what could be done with landlords passing on the cost of selective licensing to their tenants.

Councillor Ellis explained that although the council had limited control over landlords passing on the costs, it had been noted that the selective licensing scheme had been effective in reducing the number of properties in disrepair and would be extended.

RESOLVED:

To thank Councillor Ellis for the information provided.

59 CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT SCORECARD QUARTER 4 2023/24.

Councillor Robinson-Payne left the meeting.

The Chief Executive introduced a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, updating members of the progress of actions identified within the Corporate Risk Register.

Members queried the council's vulnerability with regards to cyber-attacks.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the council had conducted a cyber risk assessment which had been reported to the Audit Committee and confirmed that the council had been looking into cyber insurance.

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

60 Q4 (YEAR-END) PERFORMANCE.

The Chief Executive introduced a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, informing Members in summary of the position against improvement actions and performance indicators in the 2023/24 Gedling Plan at the end of quarter 4 and the year end.

Members queried whether the actions taken following receipt of a complaint were recorded and publicised.

The Chief Executive confirmed that actions taken were recorded for internal audit but had not been made public.

Members queried whether the Council would set higher targets for the following year for those which met their targets in Quarter 4 for the 2023/24 year.

The Chief Executive explained that service managers were asked to suggest amended targets whilst ensuring they were not out of reach.

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

61 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The Democratic Services Manager introduced a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, providing an update on the scrutiny work programme.

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

62 ANY OTHER ITEM WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT.

None.

The meeting finished at 6.55 pm

Signed by Chair:
Date: