

**Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Subject: Scrutiny Work Programme**

**Date: 19 September 2016**

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

- i. To provide an update on the scrutiny work programme
- ii. To discuss the 2016/2017 programme of scrutiny reviews

## **2. SCRUTINY REVIEWS 2015/16**

- **Obesity Review**

The responses to the recommendations arising from the review were scheduled to be available at this meeting. This has been delayed until the November meeting when the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Health and Wellbeing will be in attendance.

## **3. INFORMATION UPDATES FROM PREVIOUS ITEMS AT COMMITTEE**

- **Recording of meetings**

Members requested a 12 month progress report on the success of the initiative to voice webcast meetings. The trial is still ongoing and the Committee will be updated when more information is available.

## **4. VISIT TO MATERIAL RECYCLING FACILITY**

At the last Committee meeting Members asked for a visit to the Materials Recycling Centre (MRF) at Mansfield to be arranged. The MRF has the

capacity to sort 85,000 tonnes of Nottinghamshire recyclable waste each year and contributes towards ambitious recycling targets. A number of committee members visited the centre and learnt how state of the art technology ensures that waste is separated in to different categories, plastic, cardboard, paper and metal, using a mixture of manual and automated methods, enabling the materials to be reprocessed and used to create new products.

Councillor Lawrence will brief Members of the committee about the visit.

## **5. EAST MIDLANDS AMBULANCE SERVICE**

The Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee met with the Community Engagement Officer from East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) and had a wide ranging discussion relating to challenges faced by the ambulance service. EMAS actively seeks to involve the public, and those who represent them, in decision making to help them develop services that meet local need. To do this they want engage with Scrutiny Committees, and to facilitate this representatives from EMAS will be attending the November committee to discuss their service priorities and listen to Members views, comments and suggestions regarding the ambulance service.

## **6. WILLOWS MEDICAL CENTRE**

Following inspection by the Care Quality Commission (CCG), the Willows Medical Centre temporarily closed on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Patients registered with the medical centre were advised to contact one of four local practices if they needed an appointment with a GP or nurse.

Concern about the closure of the Medical Centre, and the effect that this may have on patients in the Carlton area, resulted in the issue being included in the Joint City and County Health Scrutiny Committee on the 12 July. Councillor Gregory attended the meeting to learn how the CCG plans to ensure continuity of care for the Willows patients and to ensure that patients of the surgery have access to GP services. Members were informed that the CCG's Quality Team is working with the Willows Medical Centre to support the development and implementation of an improvement action plan.

The CCG's report on its inspection of the practice has now been published, and following the publication the GP leading the practice formally submitted his resignation in relation to the GP practice contract. Following the usual

procedure for GP closure, the CCG will be attending a future meeting of the Joint City and County Health Scrutiny Committee to inform Members about future plans for the practice, and how they will ensure that patients have ongoing access to GP services.

## **7. SCRUTINY IN COMMITTEE**

At the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in June 27<sup>th</sup> 2016, Members agreed to continue with a programme of attendance by Portfolio Holders and relevant officers at committee. Areas of performance within each Portfolio for examination will be identified, and questions for Portfolio Holders submitted in advance of each meeting, however 'ad hoc' questions may be put forward at the meeting itself. Non-executive members will also be invited to submit questions for the Portfolio Holder.

**The programme for 2016/17 is below:**

<b>21 November 2016</b>	Councillor Henry Wheeler Housing, Health and Wellbeing
<b>23 January 2017</b>	Councillor David Ellis Public Protection
<b>13 March 2017</b>	Jenny Hollingsworth Growth and Regeneration ( to be confirmed)
<b>15 May</b>	To be confirmed.

## **8. SCRUTINY IN WORKING GROUPS**

One of the roles of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to establish a programme of scrutiny work. Effective choice of issues for scrutiny which can help influence issues of local importance is the foundation of an effective scrutiny function.

When choosing an issue for in-depth examination the committee should aim to ensure that it is:

- A key issue for the local community
- Something that the working group has a realistic change of changing for the better
- A concerns about a particular service
- An issue that a member of the public has raised with a Member

- Timely and relevant and not already under review.

When establishing a working group to carry out an in-depth review, groups will be nominated from members of the Committee, with an open call for the involvement from wider Members not currently sitting on the Overview Scrutiny Committee or Cabinet.

Members are asked to consider:

- potential topics for review by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- If they want to convene a working group to look at a specific issue
- If they would like to receive information prior to establishing a working group to determine the focus and key questions for the review
- Membership of the working group.

The following issues have been received for consideration for in depth examination:

Received from Councillor Lawrence:

- **Waste collection.**

Focusing on reduction, recycling, and reuse. This could receive submissions from our own officers, Nottinghamshire County Council, Veolia, charities such as Gedling Play Forum which recycle, etc.

Received from Councillor Doyle:

- **Tackling the issues of a growing elderly population**

*"The demographic of the UK population is changing, with those over State Pension age outnumbering children for the first time. This trend is expected to continue, with 48% of the adult population expected to be over the age of 50 by 2020, creating new challenges in health, care and employment.*

*People over 65 account for over half of gross local authority spending on adult social care, and two thirds of the primary care prescribing budget. In order to keep a rapidly ageing population fit and healthy, many suggest that there must be a shift away from the current treatment-based model of healthcare, towards a prevention based approach.*

*Independence – What support do older people require to ensure that they can maintain their independence for as long as they wish? "*

This piece was extracted from an academic circular but comes as no surprise. Whenever I am on 'ward walkabout' I am struck by the amount of single and quite elderly residents who seem to be just about coping.

Possible lines of enquiry could include:

- What is the procedure and plan of action if an elected member or officer of GBC believes an elderly person is vulnerable?
- Can GBC do more to facilitate community action, awareness and communication?
- Have we investigated assets which may help alleviate loneliness?
- What is our link with Notts. County Council regarding the wellbeing of the elderly?
- Can we establish close relatives contact details if we need to inform someone of difficult or potentially life threatening circumstances for a resident in GBC area?
- What are we as a Council doing to acknowledge this huge demographic shift, and the possible consequences. Are we prepared and can we formulate a strategy for the future ?

This review could include evidence from officers, Notts. County Council, charities for example Age Concern, academics and local interest groups.

- **Promulgation of Innovation and Initiatives within Gedling Borough Council**

I am a great believer in all institutions and organisations fostering and encouraging innovation and initiatives within its ranks. Dispelling the notion of "this is how it always has been". All society needs to adapt and change; this is the way of the world.

So how does this affect GBC? As a reader of the LGiU Daily News clips I often read about other councils adopting a new initiative or way of doing things. I would like to see more of that in GBC and see us as headline makers. Not to accept the old ways, to question all processes and procedures if they are not performing to standard. To always ask the question "how can we do better". This should be a maxim adopted from Cabinet, to elected members, to senior management, to officers, to contractors etc.

Questions we could ask and scrutinise could be the following:

- What new initiatives have GBC launched recently?
- Are there new innovations in the pipeline?

- Do we all research other processes and modus operandi of other councils both in the UK and abroad?
- Do we conduct internet research searching for ideas etc.?
- When we return from a conference, think tank, or external course do we then brief those concerned on what we have learned and could adapt?
- Is there a culture within GBC to encourage 'out of the box' ideas or hold 'blue sky thinking' sessions within teams?
- If a team member puts forward a new idea or way of doing things what happens?
- Do we listen to our customers who may have great ideas but are ignored?
- How can we promote and encourage a culture of 'innovation is vital and initiative is king'?
- Can this be rewarded?
- Is this noted in a person's development and confidential reports?

This review could include evidence from the Chief Executive, Service Managers, Trade Union representatives, other local authorities, political and business academics and local interest groups.

## **9. SCRUTINY WORK PLAN**

The Scrutiny work programme is attached at **Appendix 1**.

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members:

- Note the information regarding the Obesity review recommendations.
- Consider and comment on the information regarding the:
  - Recording of meetings
  - Visit to the Material Recycling Facility
  - East Midlands Ambulance Service
  - The Willows GP Surgery.
- Agree the rolling programme of Portfolio Holders.

- Agree how to take the scrutiny work programme forward.

## **APPENDICES**

### **Appendix 1: Work Programme**