

**Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Subject: Scrutiny Work Programme**

**Date: 21 November 2016**

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

- i. To inform the Overview and Scrutiny Committee about recent scrutiny development events the Chair has attended
- ii. To discuss the Cabinet response to the Obesity Review
- iii. To provide an update on the scrutiny work programme and discuss the 2016/2017 programme of scrutiny reviews
- iv. To inform members about issues raised at earlier committees.

## **2. FEEDBACK FROM SCRUTINY DEVELOPMENT EVENTS**

The Chair of the committee, Councillor Lawrence, will update members on recent scrutiny development events he has attended.

## **3. COMPLETED SCRUTINY REVIEWS 2015/16**

- **Obesity**

The report and recommendations arising from this report were approved at the 27<sup>th</sup> of June Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and referred to Cabinet on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August for a response. A written response to the recommendations is attached at **Appendix 1**. Members will have the opportunity to discuss the responses to the recommendations.

## **4. SCRUTINY IN WORKING GROUPS**

### **4.1 Issues of an aging population review**

There is currently one scrutiny working group. The group's first meeting, at which the review will be scoped, has been arranged for the 28<sup>th</sup> November. Working group members; Councillor Doyle (Chair), Gregory, Paling, Parr, Scoggie and Walker.

The working group will examine a range of challenges presented by the growth in an aging population, and could include what the authority doing to acknowledge this shift, its possible consequences and issues around health, housing, care and loneliness.

### **4.2 Potential topics for review**

At the last Overview and Scrutiny Committee a decision was taken to establish a second working group to consider waste collection. However, since this meeting a number of additional suggestions for review have been put forward and Members may want to consider if they would prefer to prioritise one of the issues below for review:

- **Commercialisation**

Exploring how the authority can generate extra revenue and cost reductions through the introduction of new trading arrangements and business improvement mechanisms. This could include considering what additional commercial options are available, alternative methods of service delivery, shared service opportunities, improvements in procurement plus selling and trading services.

- **Fees and charges**

This could be a wide ranging review which would consider how the authority sets its fees for all services. Currently departments set their own fees and charges for services, reviewing them to ensure that cost effective and efficient services are provided, whilst maximising income within the context of the social aims of the authority.

This could be narrowed down and consideration could be given to specific areas for example:

- **Cemeteries** – this could include the current fees and charges for bereavement services in the Council’s three cemeteries to ensure these costs reflect those charged by neighbouring authorities. Members may want to widen the remit to include other issues regarding how best the authority can meet the needs of residents during the difficult time when arranging a funeral.
  
- **Bulky Waste Services** – assessing the effectiveness of the policy of charging residents to use its bulky waste collection service, including an appraisal of the fee structure. This is something that needs consideration and member involvement would be appreciated.
  
- **Road Safety Outside Schools**  
Examination of a range of issues related to road safety near schools including child casualties, traffic congestion, parking outside schools, road safety education, traffic calming and road safety education and training.
  
- **Gedling Councillor Standard**  
The Gedling Employee Standard identifies five core competencies which are expected of employees. These are expressed as personal statements of intent and identify that a Gedling employee should be Capable, Caring and Considerate, have a ‘Can do’ attitude, are Conscientious and Confident. It has been suggested that councillors should also develop a standard to ensure that all councillors observe the same standard of conduct.

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 chance of changing for the better
- A concern 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.

Members are asked to consider:

- I. Potential topics for review
- II. If they want to convene a working group to look at a specific issue
- III. If they would like to receive information prior to establishing a working group to determine the focus and key questions for the review
- IV. Membership of the working group.

## **5. 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:**

<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
<b>15 May</b>	To be confirmed.

The scrutiny work programme is attached at **Appendix 2**.

## **6. 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.

- **Arnold Market**

External advisers have completed their commission to draw up options and costings for re-development of Arnold market. It is therefore expected that before the end of the year, Cabinet will be asked to approve the commencement of negotiations to acquire Arnold market.

- **Councillor Call for Action 72 – 74 Westdale Lane, Section 215 Notice.**

The sale of the land has now been completed; the site tidied up and is now much improved. A Section 215 notice is no longer necessary. Councillor Ellwood has been informed.

## **7. SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT**

As part of its work programme the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is required to prepare an Annual Report which highlights the work undertaken by the scrutiny committee for submission to the Council.

This report usually summarises the highlights and achievements of the scrutiny committee and discusses the priorities for the coming year.

It is proposed that the Scrutiny Annual Report be available for presentation at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 23 April, prior to its submission to Council meeting on the 26 June 2017.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members:

- Note the information about recent scrutiny development events
- Consider and discuss the responses to the Obesity Review recommendations
- Agree how to take the scrutiny work programme forward.

- Consider and comment on the information updates from previous items at committee concerning the:
  - Recording of meetings
  - Arnold Market
  - The Councillor Call for Action
- Note the information regarding the annual report.

## **APPENDICES**

**Appendix 1: Obesity Review Response**

**Appendix 2: Work Programme**