

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Subject: Programme of Portfolio Holder Attendance

Date: 21 November 2016

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- I. To consider the areas of responsibility of the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Health and Wellbeing, Councillor Peter Barnes, as part of the rolling programme of Portfolio Holder attendance.
- II. To discuss area for examination in the Public Protection Portfolio at the January meeting.

2. BACKGROUND

At the 20th July 2015 Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 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, would be identified, and questions for Portfolio Holder submitted in advance of each meeting. 'Ad hoc' questions could also be put forward at the meeting itself.

Non-executive members have also been invited to submit questions for the Portfolio Holder.

3. 2016/2017 PROGRAMME OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER ATTENDANCE

Areas of responsibility within the Housing, Health and Wellbeing portfolio include:

- Leisure centres and sports development
- Health promotion and development
- Bonington Theatre
- Homelessness and Housing needs

- Housing and Council Tax benefits
- Liaison with Public Health and Clinical Commissioning Group.

A customised report detailing performance outcomes for Q2 for the above Portfolio is attached at **Appendix 1**.

3.1 Questions received in advance from Members

The following question has been submitted in advance from Members:

L1046

Households who considered themselves homeless, who approached the Council and when housing advice resolved their situation

- Elaborate on the prevention methods?
- Does the authority make use of the Broxtowe Youth Homeless model?

L1051

Average time to process homeless applications (number of working days)

- What were the findings of the review of the service
- What are the new homelessness procedures?

L1086

Average length of time spent in temporary accommodation (in weeks)

- Could you provide more clarity on why and how the cases impeded the performance?
- Has a contingency or continuity plan been considered for the future to manage cases of possession?
- What temporary accommodation is available in Gedling? Do we place people outside the borough? Does Gedling use Bed and Breakfast accommodation?

Arising from the Actions report -Review and improve temporary housing

- This action is due for completion on 31 November 2016. It was 23% completed by the end of Quarter 1. Could Cllr Wheeler explain how far this action has progressed?

NI 181

- Time taken to process Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit new claims and change events (in calendar days)

Liaison with Public Health and the Clinical Commissioning Group

Is Cllr Wheeler able to inform the committee whether patients of the closed The Willows practice have all been satisfactorily taken on by other practices, and whether this has affected their waiting times for patients to be seen?

Is Cllr Wheeler able to inform the committee of any progress on the proposed new medical centre on Ashwell Street, Netherfield?

What effect will the 19% cut in pharmacy funding have on the provision of pharmacies in Gedling Borough. Is Councillor Wheeler able to inform the committee of any plans the CCG has to ensure that all residents have access to local pharmacies, should the decrease in funding lead to the some closing?

4. FUTURE PORTFOLIO HOLDER ATTENDANCE

Councillor David Ellis, Portfolio Holder for Public Protection, will be attending the next meeting of the committee to give Members the opportunity to examine areas within his Portfolio.

This includes:

- Crime Reduction and Community Safety
- Emergency Planning
- Safeguarding
- Environmental Health

A customised report detailing performance outcomes for Q2 for the above Portfolio is attached at **Appendix 2** to assist Members' identify areas for consideration.

Members are asked to consider which service areas they would like to examine in this Portfolio. If they have any specific issues they would like Councillor Ellis to address Members are requested to submit questions in advance of the meeting.

Councillor Ellis will also be attending to assist members with the mandatory requirement for the committee to undertake an annual review of the work of the

Local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP), as a whole, in terms of how they are tackling crime and disorder for the benefit of the local communities.

5. RESPONSES TO REQUESTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Q1 REPORTS

The following responses to issues raised at the 19 September committee have been received:

- **Progress in reducing emissions from taxi cabs.**
From this year (April 2016) we have introduced the following to reduce emissions:
 - We now allow 1000cc vehicles first registered after 1st Jan 2015, to be licensed. Previous minimum was 1300cc.
 - We changed the age policy from licensing vehicles that are 5 years old or in exceptional condition to 6 year old only. By way of explanation, this is a tightening up of vehicle standards as the exceptional condition clause was a loophole allowing old vehicles that may be in superficially good condition but with engines with lower emission standards to get a license. The revised condition ensures that all newly registered diesels meet at least euro 5 standard.

Response received from Andy Callingham,
Service Manager Public Protection.

- **Solar panels on new buildings**
There are various policies in the Aligned Core Strategy and in the emerging Local Planning Document which encourage the use of renewable energy and these include the following:-

The Aligned Core Strategy Policy 1 (Climate Change) Part 3 requires development to demonstrate how carbon dioxide emissions have been minimised in accordance with the energy hierarchy which includes:

- Using less energy through energy and efficient building design ;
- Utilising energy efficient supplies; and
- Maximising use of renewable and low carbon energy generation systems

LPD Policy 2 – Other Renewable Energy Schemes is positive about giving planning permission to renewable energy schemes subject to criteria.

LPD35 which requires proposals to respond appropriately to local climatic conditions to maximise the opportunities for energy efficient design, renewable energy generation and access to sunlight (b) (v) as well as optimising energy efficiency (c).

The use of renewable energy sources including solar panels is therefore very much supported by our existing and emerging planning policies and officers are proactive in promoting the use of such technologies. This is however often only one aspect of a development proposal and weight needs to be given to all relevant material considerations by the Borough Council when making planning decisions. Therefore, it would be difficult to substantiate a refusal of planning permission if a developer did not wish to incorporate renewable energy sources into their proposal. Our general position in relation to renewable energy is in accordance with other Council's in the Nottinghamshire and nationally.

Response received from Mike Avery,
Planning Delivery Manager.

6. RECOMMENDATION

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- Consider, ask questions and comment on the information provided
- Thank Councillor Wheeler and other guests for their attendance
- Identify areas in the Public Protection Portfolio for examination at the January meeting
- Consider areas for scrutiny
- Note the further information arising from the Q1 performance information.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Q2 Housing, Health and Wellbeing

Appendix 2: Q2 Public Protection