

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Subject: Programme of Portfolio Holder Attendance

Date: 18th September 2017

Author: Democratic Services Officer

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- I. To consider the areas of responsibility of Councillor Peter Barnes, Portfolio Holder for Environment as part of the programme of holding the Executive to account.
- II. To discuss areas for examination in the Housing, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio in preparation for the November 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 the Portfolio Holder submitted in advance of each meeting. 'Ad hoc' questions could also be put forward at the meeting itself.

Non-executive Members are also invited to submit questions for the Portfolio Holder.

3. 2017/2018 PROGRAMME OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER ATTENDANCE

3.1 Councillor Peter Barnes, Portfolio Holder for Environment is attending the Committee to give Members the opportunity to examine areas of responsibility in his Portfolio which includes:

- Waste management
- Street cleaning

- Maintenance and development of parks, open spaces, cemeteries and allotments
- Energy management and sustainability.

A customised report detailing performance outcomes for Q1 are attached at **Appendix 1** to assist Members' identify areas for consideration.

3.2 Questions and areas for discussion received in advance of the committee.

Councillor Meredith Lawrence

- 1) What lessons have been learnt from the recent unauthorised encampments on Gedling's open spaces?
- 2) When was the last time the feasibility of the provision of toilet facilities on Gedling open spaces, for example Colwick recreation ground, was considered, and is this something that could be looked at in the future?

Councillor Kevin Doyle

- 1) I have noticed recently an increase of illegal fly tipping on a large, industrial scale covering huge expanses of rural ground. This has affected two sites in neighbouring counties but also a well-publicised case in Cotgrave. I would like assurance that the Portfolio holder is aware of this increased risk?

Also:

- Has he identified potential areas in GBC for this activity?
- Liaised with County Hall in both Leicester and Nottingham to establish lessons learnt, Modus Operandi of the culprits etc.?
- Discussed and formulated an action plan if this were to occur in our area?

2) NI 192. Percentage of Household Waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting

The current figure is based on an estimate, when will this actual figure be known, and why the delay? Quite a few people raised about not being able to recycle the strawberry punnet type of plastics which now proliferates and packages all sorts of products. This is clear plastic of a flimsy nature. On a

visit to Veolia they did refer to this and said their equipment could not handle these plastics. However, in conversation with other people in different districts they say these can be recycled. Could the portfolio holder, establish from Veolia exactly why they cannot be recycled, why other companies can recycle and when will Veolia develop and take more of our plastics etc.? For many years now the types of recyclable material has remained static. GBC should ask and seek for a wider variety of disposables to be added to our green bins.

- 3) Bolton Council has revealed that in their first year of operation “slim bins” have saved taxpayers £3.4m in waste disposal costs. In June last year the council swapped from the normal 240-litre grey household waste bins to thin 140-litre bins to save on landfill costs and boost recycling.

Has GBC looked into this potential saving and increased recyclable waste?

4) **Actions –**

- **Raise the profile of the ‘Love where you Live’ campaign to educate residents and reduce incidents of environmental crime.**
Could the Portfolio holder please elaborate on the "Love Where You Live Campaign, the aim, scope, delivery times, measurables etc.?
- **Undertake a review of street cleansing operations and invest/reallocate resources as appropriate.**
Both of these are at 0% and need to be completed by end March 2018, when will there be some progress on this review?

4. FUTURE PORTFOLIO HOLDER ATTENDANCE

Councillor Henry Wheeler, Portfolio Holder for Housing, Health and Wellbeing, will be attending the next meeting of the committee to give Members the opportunity to examine areas within his Portfolio.

This includes:

- 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 Q1 for the above Portfolio is attached at **Appendix 2** to assist Members' identify areas for consideration.

5. RECOMMENDATION

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- Consider, ask questions and comment on the information provided
- Thank Councillor Barnes and other guests for their attendance
- Discuss and consider areas for examination in Councillor Wheeler's Portfolio.

APPENDICIES

Appendix 1: Q1 Environment

Appendix 2: Q1 Housing, Health and Wellbeing