

**Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Subject: Scrutiny Work Programme**

**Date: 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

**Author: Democratic Services Officer**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To provide an update on the scrutiny work programme and discuss the 2017/2018 programme of scrutiny reviews.

**2. INFORMATION UPDATES FROM PREVIOUS ITEMS AT COMMITTEE**

**2.1 The Armed Forces Community Covenant**

At the May Committee Members heard about activities to support the signing of the Armed Forces Community Covenant. Members requested that Councillor Collis, as the Council's Policy Advisor for armed forces relationships, be invited to attend the Committee to discuss his role and current initiatives to support the Covenant. Councillor Collis and Jane Ansell, Community Investment Manager, are attending the meeting to update Members on the progress of actions to refresh the Covenant Action Plan.

**2.2 Collection of inappropriately filled waste bins**

At the last Committee Members raised the issue of household refuse bins that that included unsuitable waste not being collected, and left on the street, causing not only an obstruction but a public health risk, particularly in hot weather. The committee specifically wanted to know:

- I. How arrangements can be made to have these bins collected
- II. What can be done to educate people to use bins correctly

The following response has been received from Mark Hurst, Service Manager – Transport and Waste.

I. How can arrangements be made for the bins to be collected

If a resident contacts our customer services and reports a missed or uncollected bin we will always endeavour to return the following day or within 3 working days. The refuse crews will report bins that are contaminated and place a sticker on the wheelie bin to inform the resident why the bin was rejected and remove the contamination and to contact our customer services to arrange a new collection. We are also re-designing the bin stickers that our bin men put on contaminated bins which will draw more attention to the issue.

If there are access problems due to parked cars we use the same timescales.

Problems with bins left on streets as been a long standing issue. We have had discussions with our neighbourhood wardens following complaints we've received, both from a Waste point of view, and a PASC point of view (obstructions for the street sweepers) and they are not in a position to enforce or issue any fixed penalties for bins left on streets. The wardens do however try and engage with residents where possible to explain the problem.

In addition if a problem with bins on streets is reported to our customer services a letter is sent out to the resident to try and resolve the problem, attached at **Appendix 1**

II. What can be done to 'educate' people to use the bins correctly?

We are currently planning a number of education techniques targeting the residents of the borough, to coincide with the National Recycle Week which is the 25<sup>th</sup> September to the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017. Recent budget cuts have meant that the previous role of Recycling Officer has been deleted, which has affected our ability to provide this education on a regular basis. However, we are aware that this does need addressing, hence the planned initiative.

Part of the planned initiative is to promote the ability to sign up for an email reminder of which bin day and provide some education for residents about what can/should go in their recycle bin as we have had a recent increase in contaminated bins and loads taken to the recycling facility.

### **2.3 Visit to the Contact Centre**

Members requested that a visit be arranged to the Contact Centre. This has been arranged and for Members to get a flavour of the work undertaken by the Centre it is suggested that this is undertaken during Customer Services Week at the beginning of October. Interested Members will be contacted after the Committee for arrangements to be finalised

## **3. SCRUTINY REVIEWS 2017/18**

### **3.1 Gedling Councillor Standard**

Working Group members: Councillor Collis, Elliott, Miller, Paling, Parr, Scoggie.

This working group which will be developing a set of guidance which will determine standards of behaviour expected from elected members will be starting shortly.

### **3.2 Improving the effectiveness of scrutiny**

Although the Committee approved the continuation of the programme of inviting Portfolio Holders to the Committee it was decided that a working group should be convened to consider the effectiveness of the programme, and to explore other ways of evaluating performance.

### **3.3 Promoting transparency of the Council**

When considering the continuation of the trial for the recording of meetings, Members proposed that a review should be established that would consider options available that could be used to increase interest in and transparency of Council committees. This would include considering how the use of new technology could be used enhance this.

Initial meetings to scope these reviews will shortly be scheduled. Members who have not already indicated that they would like to be involved in these reviews are invited to be included. Members of the Youth Council have been invited to consider if these reviews are something in which they would like to be involved.

#### **4. SCRUTINY IN COMMITTEE**

##### **4.1 Programme of Portfolio Holder Attendance**

At the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017, the continuation of the programme of Portfolio Holder attendance was discussed. It was agreed to continue with the programme, and also that as previously agreed areas of performance within each Portfolio would be identified, and questions for Portfolio Holders submitted in advance of each meeting. A programme of attendance is now available.

<b>20<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Councillor H Wheeler Health, Housing and Wellbeing Portfolio
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> January</b>	Councillor D Ellis Public Protection Portfolio
<b>19<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Councillor J Hollingsworth Growth and Regeneration Portfolio
<b>14<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Cllr G Gregory Community Development Portfolio

The Overview and Scrutiny work programme is attached at **Appendix 3**.

#### **5. RECOMMENDATION**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- Consider and comment on the information relating to the Community Covenant
- Note the information relating to refuse bins
- Discuss the visit to the Contact Centre
- Consider the proposed working groups and the membership
- Note the information relating to the continuation of the Portfolio Holder Programme.

## **APPENDICES**

**Appendix 1: Refuse letter**

**Appendix 2: Scrutiny work programme**