

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Subject: Scrutiny Work Programme

Date: 20 November 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. COMPLETED SCRUTINY REVIEWS

2.1 Elderly Person's Working Group

The report and recommendations were presented to Cabinet on 12th October. A written response to recommendations is attached at **Appendix 1**. Members will have the opportunity to discuss the responses to the recommendations.

2.2 Obesity Report

The report and recommendations were presented to Cabinet on the 4th August 2016 and a written response was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 21st November 2016. A six month progress report on the implementation of some of the accepted recommendations was presented to the Committee on the 8th May. Attached at **Appendix 2** is a six month update for recommendations made to leisure services.

3. INFORMATION UPDATES FROM PREVIOUS ITEMS AT COMMITTEE

3.1 The Armed Forces Community Covenant

At the May Committee Councillor Collis, the Council's Policy Advisor for Armed Forces Relationships, informed Members about activities to support the signing of the Armed Forces Community Covenant. Members suggested that leisure centre concessions should be considered for military and ex-military personnel and requested a written update at the next committee on progress of the Covenant refresh.

Leisure Centre Concessions

As a result of Gedling BC signing up to the Covenant, armed forces personnel can currently access the Leisure Services corporate membership rate, which is the same as the concessionary price of £25.

Standard Corporate memberships are minimum term 12-month contracts however we offer six month memberships to Armed Forces personnel, and one off single month memberships if they are home in Nottinghamshire for a short period.

Armed Forces access to this discounted rate is promoted in the East Midlands Military Guide, and promoted on the updated Covenant webpage. Advert attached at **Appendix 3**

We don't currently offer any additional discounted rates for families of concessionary memberships. Families of GBC staff and any other concessions don't get any discount so I don't think this is something we would look to offer as it goes against current offerings.

The Council doesn't currently offer discounts to ex Armed Forces personnel, however this may be something we can do in future. It would require a means of identifying members of the Armed Forces community, i.e. asking the question on the application form, which is one of the actions identified in the upcoming Armed Forces Covenant Action Plan.

General progress update: Covenant Action Plan 2017/19

At the last Scrutiny Committee Councillor Collis presented a report highlighting the priorities to be addressed in a refreshed Covenant Action Plan. This action plan will be the subject of an upcoming report to the Council's Senior Leadership Team.

In the meantime, the Covenant webpage has been updated, and the need to provide support to Armed Forces citizens has been included as a cross cutting consideration in the service planning process 2018/19.

Councillor Collis will be attending the Employer Recognition Scheme Silver Award Reception in Loughborough on Thursday 9th November, and an article about our achievement has been included in Christmas Contacts.

Discussions and scoping is underway about the 100 year commemoration of the end of WW1, with initial proposals for an event on the Gedling Country Park and in the Newstead Locality.

Jane Ansell, Community Investment Manager.

3.2 Quarter 1 Performance Review

- **Coordination of grass cutting with litter picks**

Ways to better co-ordinate the County Council verge mowing and Gedling Borough Council litter picking will be considered.

- **Letter to football teams regarding litter on recreation areas**

A letter will be sent to football teams regarding litter on pitches and the requirement to tidy up after matches.

Melvin Cryer, Service Manager Parks and Street Care

4. SCRUTINY REVIEWS 2017/18

4.1 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.

4.2 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. This working group has held its first meeting and developed a draft scope **Appendix 4.**

4.3 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.

This piece of work has not yet commenced as additional Members are required for the working group.

5. SCRUTINY IN COMMITTEE

5.1 Programme of Portfolio Holder Attendance

At the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in 8th 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.

22nd January	Councillor D Ellis Public Protection Portfolio
19th March	Councillor J Hollingsworth Growth and Regeneration Portfolio
14th May	Cllr G Gregory Community Development Portfolio

The Overview and Scrutiny work programme is attached at **Appendix 5**.

6. EAST MIDLANDS SCRUTINY NETWORK

The next meeting of the East Midlands Scrutiny Network is scheduled for the 1st December at 10.00. This meeting is being hosted by Gedling Borough Council and all members' of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are invited to attend.

7. RECOMMENDATION

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- Consider and comment on the responses to completed scrutiny reviews
- Consider on the information relating to the Community Covenant
- Consider the proposed working groups and the membership
- Note the information relating to the continuation of the Portfolio Holder Programme.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Elderly Persons Review response

Appendix 2: Obesity Review update

Appendix 3: Leisure advert

Appendix 4: Draft Scope, Effectiveness of Scrutiny

Appendix 5: Scrutiny work programme