

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Subject: Scrutiny Work Programme

Date: 22 January 2018

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 Income Generation 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.

3. INFORMATION UPDATES FROM PREVIOUS ITEMS AT COMMITTEE

3.1 Members requested additional information relating to issues reported in the Quarter 1 performance data regarding:

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

The highways manager for Viaem, [formerly Nottinghamshire County Council Highways], has been contacted and a request has been placed that Gedling Borough Council, Parks and Street Care services are provided with a schedule of grass cuts for the mowing season 2018. Once provided with this, we will endeavour to arrange litter picks on key hot spot routes beforehand to help reduce unnecessary littering.

The Viaem grass cutting operation operates with more than one flail mowing crew, this make it difficult for us to keep up at times. Parks and Street Care can only supply one crew to litter pick and this crew can only be in one place at any given time. We could not afford to field more crews than this otherwise normal schedules litter picking work across the Borough would suffer.

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

A letter was sent out to the clubs that play on Lambley Lane Recreation Ground currently attached at **Appendix 2**. There has been no response, but we will be monitoring this in the future. No further complaints have been received to date.

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, to explore other ways of evaluating performance and how to increase member engagement with the process. This working group has met and discussed this issue but would now like to hear committee member's views on how they feel the committee could become more effective. A questionnaire and some background information has been sent to members of the committee prior to the meeting to assist them when discussing this issue.

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. It was agreed at the last committee that a small group of members would scope the review and report back. After discussion by the working group it was decided that due to lack of interest that this review would not proceed. The outstanding issue regarding the recording of meetings, which Cabinet has asked the committee to reconsider would, however, be brought back to the March committee for a further discussion. To assist members of the committee with their discussion it is proposed that all members of the Council are asked for their opinion about the resumption of the audio recording of Council and Planning Committee.

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.

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 3**

6. RECOMMENDATION

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- Consider and comment on the responses to the Income Generation Working Group recommendations
- Consider and comment on the information updates from previous committees
- Discuss the Effectiveness of Scrutiny review with working group members
- Consider the working group decision not to establish a review to examine openness and transparency of the Council.
- Note the information relating to the continuation of the Portfolio Holder Programme.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Income Generation recommendations response

Appendix 2: Letter to football teams

Appendix 3: Overview and Scrutiny work programme.