

**MINUTES
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Monday 19 March 2018

Councillor Meredith Lawrence (Chair)

Councillor Sandra Barnes	Councillor Helen Greensmith
Councillor Tammy Bisset	Councillor Marje Paling
Councillor Kevin Doyle	Councillor Stephen Poole
Councillor Roxanne Ellis	Councillor John Truscott
Councillor Kathryn Fox	

Apologies for absence: Councillor Paul Feeney, Councillor Bruce Andrews
and Councillor Alex Scroggie

Officers in Attendance: J Robinson and H Lee

Guests in Attendance J Hollingsworth

18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS.

None.

**19 TO APPROVE, AS A CORRECT RECORD, THE MINUTES OF THE
MEETING HELD ON 22 JANUARY 2018**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the above meeting, having been circulated, be approved as a correct record.

20 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

None.

21 PROGRAMME OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER ATTENDANCE

The committee welcomed Councillor Jenny Hollingsworth, Portfolio Holder for Growth and Regeneration to discuss a range of issues relating to her area of responsibility. John Robinson, Chief Executive also attended the meeting.

Councillor Hollingsworth addressed a range of questions and topics that had been sent to her in advance of the meeting.

Employment and Skills - Apprenticeships and work placements

Until recently apprentices were not employed by the authority but through the Apprenticeship Training Agency. Upon completion of the programme the training arrangement ceased as did their employment with the ATA. There is no formal tracking of apprentices once the apprenticeship ends. The recent change in the apprenticeship model has resulted in the current group of apprentices mainly comprising of existing employees. It is not always possible to guarantee ongoing employment and with a contracting work force this has become even more difficult. Currently the programme has a strong practical relevance to work with the Council and equipping candidates to compete in a competitive jobs market.

Work experience

There are two types of work experience placement, school age and working age. There is an active programme of school age work placements and up until December there have been nine opportunities above the internal target of six. Placements are made through direct contact by a young person or by referral through the YouNG programme. There is no formal evaluation of the placement other than an informal discussion between the team manager and the student. Other outreach work is undertaken with schools to help pupils prepare for work for example attending schools to assist with mock interviews and information days.

There is a target of sixteen adult work experience placement each year. In the year 2016/17 twenty six placements were facilitated. About half were with PASC from a programme run by Babbington College. The remainder of the placement were from the DWP partners in Job Centre Plus.

Inward Investment – Support for small businesses

Small businesses can access arrange of support from the Council including bespoke property searches for new or on the move accommodation as well as assistance with recruitment and training. The Council facilities one to one business support surgeries from the Civic Centre with business advisors from the D”N” Growth Hub. The Council effectively promotes grant funding and financing opportunities , training and networking opportunities to the business community via direct mailing, Keep me Posted alerts and bespoke meetings and existing business networks,

The issue of the increase in the number of empty shops in Arnold was raised, the reason for this is unclear, however the regeneration of Arnold market could increase footfall and halt this decline.

Housing Development – Planning Protocol

The draft Planning Protocol has been subject to a consultation exercise which closed in February and may be refined in view of the comment received. The Greater Nottingham Joint Planning Authority will periodically review the effectiveness of the Protocol.

Temporary Housing.

Currently the Council owns seven flats over shops which are used for temporary accommodation. One was recently bought back into use following extensive repairs and upgrading. In addition the Council leases four properties from Derwent Living. Use is made of Rushcliffe Borough Council's temporary accommodation and currently there are six families housed there.

The Council owns very little land suitable for residential development. The largest site is at Killersick Lane and once the emerging Local Plan is adopted officers will progress development options for the site. Other Council land is limited to small parcels of land capable of supporting one or two homes where appropriate planning permission will be sought prior to sale.

Delivery of allocated housing sites.

These are always under constant review and officers follow up to see why building hasn't progressed. The main push is on those sites that are in the ownership of other public bodies. Those in private ownership are always more difficult to progress, all have different reasons for delaying development.

Affordable Housing – Definition

Affordable housing includes

- Social Housing provided by councils and registered providers (RPs) which are at or below the local housing allowance
- Affordable rent, which can also be offered by Councils and RPs, is set at a rate which is 80% of current market rent.
- Intermediate housing which is designed to facilitate home ownership such as discounts for sale and shared ownership.

The full definition is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework 2012.

Gedling Housing Development Company

Officers have consulted with other Councils which have established or are in the process of establishing Local Housing Companies. Options are currently being reviewed particularly in the specific circumstances of limited land availability, viability and finance options. Housing Companies can assist in accelerating the delivery of housing and can create income to reinvest in Council services.

Transportation - Progress of Gedling Access Road and tram extension

Agreements have been reached on the acquisition of key land parcels. Precommencement planning conditions have been discharged. Further details including landscaping works, temporary lighting, highway design code, noise assessment, historic building recording, and footpath diversions will be subject to public consultation and approval by Planning Committee in due course. Balfour Beatty has been selected as the preferred contractor and main works will start autumn 2018 with completion 2020.

An initial study has been undertaken to assess the feasibility of a tram extension to Gedling. Work is now being progressed with Nottingham City Council with a view to preparing a business case.

Town Centre Management and development.

Notts. Police agreed the sale of the old Carlton Police Station. It is understood the buyer proposes to retain the existing building and may have a residential and office element, subject to planning permission. Regeneration of Carlton Square is progressing. Options include improvement of the Gedling Borough Council owned car parks, discussions with Waypoint the shopping centre owners to review the extent of possible works and joint delivery, and plans to demolish the derelict cottage.

RESOLVED to;

- **Note the report, and**
- **Thank Councillor Hollingsworth for an interesting and informative report**

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SCRUTINY OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER.

The Democratic Services Officer, presented a report, prepared by the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection, which was circulated in advance of the meeting. The report outlined the work undertaken of the South Nottinghamshire Community Safety Partnership and how it communicates with the public.

The issue of water safety in Gedling was raised and Members requested information regarding water safety education initiatives in the borough.

RESOLVED:

- Thank Councillor D Ellis for the report
- To note the report.
- Receive information about water safety at the next committee.

23

RECORDING OF MEETINGS

The Democratic Services Officer presented a report, which was circulated in advance of the meeting. The report informed members of the Committee of a request by Cabinet to consider the audio recording of meetings and included information to assist them when considering whether to introduce a permanent arrangement for the recording of committee meetings.

The current microphone system used in the Council Chamber was discussed and agreed as being ineffective and not fit for purpose. It was strongly felt that until the current system in the Chamber is upgraded, and replaced with one which clearly amplifies discussion, there was little point in implementing a system for the audio recording and broadcasting of committee meetings.

It was agreed that when a clear amplification system is available that in the interest of openness and transparency all committee meetings, including full Council and those not covered by the exclusion of the press and public, should be recorded and broadcast. This would include not just meetings held in the Council Chamber but all committees including those held in different meeting rooms.

RESOLVED:

In the interest of openness and transparency, all meetings including full Council and those not covered by the exclusion of the press and public should be recorded and broadcast. However, this should only happen when there is a suitable sound system with microphones that clearly amplify discussion available.

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SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

COMPLETED SCRUTINY REVIEWS

The final reports and recommendations arising from

- **Improving the Effectiveness of Scrutiny working group**
- and
- **The Gedling Councillor Standard working group.**

were discussed and agreed.

SCRUTINY IN COMMITTEE

It was agreed that proposals for future scrutiny working groups would be discussed at the next Committee.

SCRUTINY IN COMMITTEE

Programme of Portfolio Holder Attendance

The forward plan of Portfolio Holder attendance was noted and agreed.

25

REPORTS AND NOTICES RECEIVED BY THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AS REQUIRED UNDER

THE CONSTITUTION OR LAW.

Members considered a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, which included information on items referred to the Chair as required by the Constitution.

26 ANY OTHER ITEM WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT.

None.

The meeting finished at 7.30 pm

Signed by Chair:
Date: