

**Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Subject: Programme of Portfolio Holder Attendance**

**Date: 24 September 2018**

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## **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 Public Protection Portfolio in preparation for the November meeting.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

At the 20<sup>th</sup> 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. 2018/2019 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 is attached at **Appendix 1** to assist Members' identify areas for consideration.

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

#### **Questions relating to Gedling County Park**

##### **Councillor Greensmith**

- Gedling Borough Council has spent a considerable amount of time and money on Gedling Country Park and we need to be seeing a return on the investment. We were informed at full Council some time ago that a report on Gedling Country Park would be made available for Members, when is this likely to be?

##### **Councillor McCrossen**

- Do we have any data for the foot fall at Gedling Country Park?
- What is the social capital arising from people visiting the park?
- Do we receive any income from the café?

##### **Councillor Doyle**

- I would like to know the current progress and content of the "Gedling Park Business Plan"

##### **Councillor Parr**

- Are there any proposed additional protective measures within the Gedling Country Park, given the recent spate of vandalism?

#### **Other Issues**

##### **Councillor Doyle**

- Could the Portfolio Holder make stronger representation to Supermarkets in GBC area in order for them to drastically cut down on plastics which do not biodegrade? Supermarkets in France, Italy and Spain sell items and food stuff loose.
- Could the Portfolio Holder research the possibility (together with other local councils, City etc.) of using the incineration technology whereby only PET bottles, aluminium and tin plate cans are recycled the rest is incinerated but this would provide a huge amount of clean energy (see the Swiss model)? Needs radical thinking and research then to employ influence, leadership and cooperation with other councils. But let GBC take the initiative.
- Could the Portfolio Holder consider more out of the box methods for "recycling" unwanted goods? For example in Germany on one day of the week for 2/3 hours unwanted items are put outside houses for folk to come and reuse. In other words what is ones man's rubbish another man may desire it.

#### **Councillor Weisz**

- What are the Council's plans for our green, relatively open parks e.g. Breck Hill, Valley Road etc. Do we have a timetable for their review?
- What is our involvement and contribution to the cleaner air policy being developed across the city and county through Public Health? Are there likely to be specific targets for reducing the pollution on the road through Daybrook?

#### **Councillor Feeney**

- At Carlton Cemetery a bereaved partner will have to pay £1,044 to bury their loved one. Whilst at Redhill Cemetery in Arnold a local resident will only have to pay £861 for the same amount of land and the same services from Gedling Council. Why do you have a policy of having residents in Carlton paying a higher fee for the same services than those who reside in Arnold?

#### **Councillor Scoggie**

- What initiatives are there promote cleaner streets and deter people not to drop litter?
- What is the council doing to protect wildlife habitats?

#### **4. FUTURE PORTFOLIO HOLDER ATTENDANCE**

Councillor David Ellis, Portfolio Holder for Public Protection, will be attending the next meeting of the committee to give Members the opportunity to examine areas within his Portfolio.

This includes:

- Crime Reduction and Community Safety
- Emergency Planning
- Safeguarding
- Environmental Health

Councillor Ellis will also be attending to assist Members to find areas for examination as part of the mandatory requirement for the committee to undertake an annual review of the work of the Local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP).

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 Ellis's Portfolio.

#### **APPENDICIES**

**Appendix 1: Q1 Environment**

**Appendix 2: Q1 Public Protection.**