

**Report to:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Subject:** Scrutiny Work Programme 2013/14

**Date:** 9 December 2013

**Author:** Senior Elections and Members' Services Officer

## **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- i. To introduce Councillor Peter Barnes, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Corporate Directors Dave Wakelin and Stephen Bray, who have been invited to attend the meeting to take questions on specific areas of this Portfolio.
- ii. To receive any wider questions that Members may have about Q2 2013/14 performance.
- iii. To provide an update on the 2013/14 Scrutiny work programme.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

At the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2013 Members agreed a programme of attendance by Portfolio Holders and relevant Corporate Directors at committee and also identified which areas of performance within each Portfolio they would like to examine. It was further agreed that questions for Portfolio Holders should be submitted in advance of each meeting, however 'ad hoc' questions may be put forward at the meeting itself.

This committee has elected to consider the following elements of the Environment Portfolio:

### **Waste strategy, energy management and sustainability**

Questions include:

- Should our development on future Housing be strongly advocating for example Solar Panels & Rain water/Grey water to be filtered and reused?

- Given the recent news that 'millions of tons' of food items that are being dumped, both by the retail trade and the public in general. What plans has GBC made to educate, facilitate, and hopefully help eliminate this wasteful attitude?
- Please provide a definition and examples of 'Sustainability' in respect of Councillor Barnes' portfolio.

### **ONGOING PROGRAMME OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER ATTENDANCE**

Listed below are details of the on-going programme of Portfolio Holder and Corporate Director attendance at Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The programme may be subject to minor changes.

- **Committee date: 10<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

Councillor Hollingsworth: Health and Housing Portfolio  
Corporate Director: Dave Wakelin

Service for review: Public Health

- **Committee date: 12<sup>th</sup> May 2014 (date may be affected by the European election)**

Councillor Pulk: Leisure and Development Portfolio  
Corporate Director: Paula Darlington

Services for review: the planning process and the town centres strategy

- **Committee date: 14<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

Councillor Fox: Community Development Portfolio  
Corporate Director: Paula Darlington

Service for review: Neighbourhood working

- **Committee date: 29<sup>th</sup> September 2014 – details to be confirmed**
- **Committee date: 15<sup>th</sup> December 2014 – details to be confirmed**

### **2.3 Covalent Performance Monitoring Report: Quarter 2 2013/14**

Members have the opportunity to review the quarterly Performance Digest which is available under “**Our priorities, plans and performance/performance management**”.

## **Summary of quarter 2 Performance**

Overall performance has improved compared with the position at the end of quarter 1. 16 of the 28 performance indicators suitable for quarterly monitoring are on target – of the remainder, 3 are at amber status and 9 are red. This does however understate performance in a number of areas – for example, with regard to new homes completed, the 107 completions in the quarter, though just shy of the 110 target, represents the best quarterly result for four years. All actions in the Council Plan are completed or on target.

### **3. IN DEPTH SCRUTINY**

Scoping meetings have been conducted for the following working groups and draft scopes are tabled for comment and approval. Both working groups are now undertaking a 6 weekly cycle of evidence gathering meetings with Portfolio Holders, Corporate Directors, partners and stakeholders.

#### **1. Homelessness and hardship in the Borough**

**Working Group members:** Councillors Lawrence (Chair), Weisz, Blair, Paling, Hope, P. Allan, Bexon, Hewson, Hughes.

**Draft Scope attached: Appendix A**

#### **2. Reducing unemployment in the Borough**

**Working Group Members:** Councillors Bailey (chair), Wheeler, R. Ellis, R. Allan, Gregory P. Andrews, Hewson, Hughes, Parr.

**Draft Scope attached: Appendix B**

A third review, 'Transport Links to the Borough' will commence in the New Year.

### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members:

- Put forward relevant questions to the Portfolio Holder and Corporate Directors.
- Raise any questions they may have regarding the Q2 Covalent Performance Monitoring Report.

- Approve the project scopes of the 'Homelessness and Hardship in the Borough' and 'Reducing Unemployment in the Borough' Scrutiny reviews

## **5. APPENDICES**

Appendix A: Draft Project Scope: Homelessness and Hardship in the Borough

Appendix B: Draft Project Scope: Reducing Unemployment in the Borough