

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Subject: Scrutiny Work Programme

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To:

- Discuss the 2018/2019 programme of scrutiny reviews.
- Consider the continuance of the programme of Portfolio Holder attendance
- Identify areas for examination in the 2019/20 work programme.

Recommendations

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- Note the information relating to the Household Refuse Recycling review.
- Consider how the Committee would like to take the Wellbeing of Young People review work forward.
- Agree the continuation of the programme of Portfolio Holder attendance.
- Discuss and prioritise areas for in depth review.

2. SCRUTINY REVIEWS 2018/19

Household Refuse Recycling

The report and recommendations from this review will be presented to Cabinet on the 1st August 2019. A written response to the recommendations will be available at the September Committee, at which time Members will have the opportunity to discuss the response to the recommendations.

Wellbeing of Young People

This review was set up in response to Member's concern that the lack of appropriate services for young people in the borough may be exacerbating poor mental and emotional health. Members of the working group have discussed this with representatives from Nottinghamshire County Council Youth Services, the Children's Integrated Commissioning Hub and Public Health. In addition they have visited the Carlton le Willows Academy and consulted the Gedling Borough Council Service Manager for Community Relations. It was planned that the group would discuss this with the voluntary group 'We are Here' and they very much wanted to speak to a representative from the School Nursing Service, but this was proving very difficult to arrange. The working group was unable to conclude this review due to the borough elections and as the review has lost the Chair of the working group and there is only one remaining member on the Committee a decision has to be taken how this review should be taken forward.

The committee could:

- Continue with this work with a new membership
- Abandon this review
- Ask the newly appointed Portfolio Holder for Young People and Equalities if she has any plans to undertake any work in this area as the information gathered may be of some assistance.

3. 2019/2020 WORK PROGRAMME

One of the main roles of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is establishing and managing the Council's programme of scrutiny work.

This includes:

- agreeing a programme of work for the municipal year

- monitoring progress of the programme throughout the year
- developing reports and recommendations on issues of local concern
- evaluating the progress of any recommendations made.

Effective work programming is important for effective scrutiny. When setting the work programme the Committee should aim to have clear priorities for what it is hoping to achieve and how they want to do it.

The work programme which is a flexible plan outlines the programme for the coming municipal year and is usually developed at the first meeting after the Annual Council. The programme is drawn together by the Chair and members of the Committee and can include issues put forward by Members, topics that arise during discussion with Portfolio Holders and senior officers, concerns generated from the Corporate Complaints Policy, the Gedling Plan, results of the Gedling Conversation, performance data and potential issues arising from corporate priorities or the Forward Plan. A draft 2019/20 work programme is attached at **Appendix 1** which includes items already scheduled including dates for performance review information and the mandatory annual review of the work of the Local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships.

I. Scrutiny at committee

It has previously been agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee that the on-going scrutiny of specific service areas within individual Portfolios would be dealt with at the Scrutiny Committee itself, rather than in working groups. Additional scrutiny will only be conducted if deemed necessary by the Committee. A rolling programme of attendance by Portfolio Holders and relevant Corporate Directors for 2019/20 can be arranged. Members will be asked prior to each meeting which specific service areas they would like to examine. Questions for Portfolio Holders will be requested in advance of each meeting, however 'ad hoc' questions may be put forward at the meeting itself. Information regarding Cabinet and Portfolio responsibilities is attached at **Appendix 2**.

Members are asked to consider if they would like to continue with this rolling programme of Portfolio Holder attendance, which Portfolio Holders they would like to invite, and to discuss and make suggestions for service areas they would like to examine at future meetings.

II. Scrutiny in working groups - Identification of issues for in-depth scrutiny

The Committee is asked to discuss and identify issues they would like to include in the work programme for 2018/19. This is for inclusion in the programme for committee meetings and also for in depth examination by task and finish working groups. Members are invited to put forward suggestions at the Committee. Members are asked to consider all the suggestions put forward and decide how to address the issues identified, this could be by inclusion in the Committee agenda, addressed by short, time limited review of two or three meetings or longer in depth examination. Members are reminded when identifying issues for examination consideration should be given to how the review will result in improvements for local people.

III. Member training

One of the recommendations from the 2017/18 scrutiny review which considered ways to increase the effectiveness of the Councils scrutiny function advised that “comprehensive training is available for all Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members, but in particular new members, to ensure that they fully understand their role on the Committee and which will assist them when questioning representatives.” It is envisaged that an introductory training session using outside trainers will be arranged in the near future.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Draft Work Programme

Appendix 2: Cabinet and Portfolio Responsibilities