

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Subject: Programme of Portfolio Holder Attendance

Date: 9th March 2020

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- I. To consider the areas of responsibility of Councillor Hollingsworth, Portfolio Holder Growth and Regeneration and Councillor P Barnes, Portfolio Holder for Environment as part of the programme of holding the Executive to account.
- II. To consider areas for discussion when Councillor Clarke and Councillor Payne attend the committee on the 27th April.

RECOMMENDATION

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- consider, ask questions and comment on the information provided
- thank Councillors Hollingsworth and P Barnes and other guests for their attendance
- discuss and consider areas for examination at the April Committee.

2. BACKGROUND

At the 15th July 2019 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 would also be invited to submit questions for the Portfolio Holder.

3. 2018/2019 PROGRAMME OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER ATTENDANCE

- 3.1 Councillors Hollingsworth and P Barnes are attending the committee to give members the opportunity to examine areas of responsibility in their portfolio which includes:

Councillor Hollingsworth – Growth and Regeneration

- Planning policy, development management and building control
- Transportation
- Town centre management and development
- Business improvement, local business engagement, promotion and support
- Housing development
- Employment and skills

Councillor P Barnes – Environment

- Waste management and recycling
- Street cleansing
- Maintenance and development of parks, open spaces, cemeteries and allotments
- Pet cremation
- Energy management and sustainability.

A customised reports detailing performance outcomes for Q3 for the above portfolios is attached at **Appendix 1 and 2**.

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

Councillor Hollingsworth:

- In your capacity as portfolio holder dealing with transportation; how is the Borough Council promoting the development of the derelict mineral line in Gedling /Netherfield into a tram route?

- When the local plan was adopted in 2018 it amended the green belt boundary which brought forward a number of housing allocation sites but Trent Valley residents want to see houses built on brownfield sites and our green spaces protected. What is the council doing to incentivise developers to build on brownfield sites?
- To support Arnold's high street and market, can the council move Arnold Market to line it down the centre of Front Street in front of the shops between Wilko and Costa? All the stall holder and independent shop keeper have requested this as it will increase footfall for both the market stallholders and our high street shops.

Councillor P Barnes

- Air pollution and climate change resulting from higher levels of CO2 in the atmosphere are a major issue that the government and this council will have to address in coming years.
 - I. In relation to transport what has been accomplished in your portfolios over the last year to minimise the amount of NOXI, VOC, HCs being emitted from our council's vehicles fleet?
 - II. What in your relevant portfolio have you planned to do in transferring the smaller vehicles to electric power and how do you see the charging infrastructure of these vehicles changing. Do we currently have enough electricity going through the transformers that supply the depot with electricity to undertake this task?
 - III. What is your preferred source of power to meet the "0" carbon needs of our future fleet of heavy vehicles and how do you propose to advance this change over to "0" carbon emissions?
- In the capital budget for 2020/21 there is a figure of £100,000 for Carbon Reduction Initiatives. As your area of responsibility includes Energy Management and Sustainability can you give some additional outline into how this money will be spent over the next year?

- My understanding when raising with officers the issue of repairs to the equipment at children's play areas is that there is no capital budget set aside to replace such equipment when it reaches the end of its useful life. Instead officers seek external funding via "Friends of" groups or via Section 106 agreements. What is the long term future for those play areas that neither have "Friends of" groups to support them or a location close by to a new housing development?
- The Borough owns a number of unadopted footpaths on land not part of recreation grounds. My understanding is that there is no regular weed spraying on these footpaths. In the past this has led to complaints to councillors about the overgrown nature of these footpaths. Although such footpaths are then cleared on an ad hoc basis there is according to officers no budget to undertake weed spraying on a regular basis. As these footpaths have to have their weeds removed eventually would it be possible to consider establishing a small recurring budget to cover weed spraying on such paths? Possibly a cost neutral exercise in the long run.

Members will also be discussing the response to the Household Recycling Review attached at **Appendix 3** and Waste Services complaints data attached at **Appendix 4**.

4. FUTURE PORTFOLIO HOLDER ATTENDANCE

Councillor Clarke, and Councillor Payne, will be attending the next meeting of the committee to give Members the opportunity to examine their areas of responsibility.

This includes:

Councillor John Clarke - Leader of the Council

- Overall strategy and delivery of agreed Council priorities and objectives.
- Oversight of all Cabinet responsibilities.
- Building and developing relationships with partners at a local, regional, national and international level to pursue matters of interest to the Council and the community.
- Representing the interests of the Council and the wider community on the Local Enterprise Partnership, Metro Board, East Midlands Councils, and other key strategic local, regional and national bodies.

- Oversight of the Council's Partnership and Collaboration Agreements with key partners.
- Building and maintaining positive relationships with and between elected Members and employees.
- Promoting and encouraging effective corporate governance and the highest standards of probity.
- Emergency Planning.
- Strategic lead for Economic Development and Inward investment.

**Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Resources & Reputation -
Councillor Michael Payne**

- Budget strategy, financial management and local taxation.
- Asset Management, including the Council's investment property, sales and purchase of land.
- Commercialisation.
- Communications, marketing and promotion.
- Media relations.
- Customer Services, information and communications technology, including digitalisation.
- Transformation of Council services, processes and governance.
- Social Mobility.

Customised reports detailing performance outcomes for Q3 for the above portfolios is attached at **Appendix 5** to assist Members' identify areas for consideration

APPENDICIES

Appendix 1: Growth and Regeneration

Appendix 2: Environment

Appendix 3: Household Recycling Review

Appendix 4: Complaints Data

Appendix 5: Leader and Deputy Leader