

Report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Subject: Programme of Portfolio Holder Attendance

Date: 26th April 2021

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- I. To consider areas of responsibility of Councillors Peter Barnes, Portfolio Holder for the Environment and Councillor Gary Gregory Portfolio Holder for Community Development, as part of the programme of holding the Executive to account.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- **Consider, ask questions and comment on the information provided**
- **Thank Councillor P Barnes, Gregory and guests for their attendance**
- **Discuss the future programme of Portfolio Holder attendance at the committee.**

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 At the 6th July 2020 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. 2020/2021 PROGRAMME OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER ATTENDANCE

3.1 Councillor Peter Barnes and Gary Gregory are attending the committee to give members the opportunity to examine issues and answer questions regarding their responsibilities as portfolio holders.

3.2 Councillor Barnes, Portfolio Holder for Environment

- Waste Management and recycling.
- Street cleaning.
- Maintenance and development of parks, open spaces, cemeteries and Allotments.
- Pet cremation.
- Energy management and sustainability.

3.4 Councillor Gary Gregory, Portfolio Holder for Community Development

- Neighbourhood Working.
- Community Events.
- Arts and culture.
- Community Engagement and Consultation, including liaison with the voluntary sector and Parish Councils.
- Members' services, including member training and development

3.5 The following questions have been received in advance of the committee.

Councillor P Barnes

- What is the authority doing to further its ambition to be a 'Plastic Clever Council'
- How will the appointment of a Climate Change Officer contribute to the borough tackling the climate emergency?
- What initiatives are being taken to increase recycling?
- How successful has it been to secure external funding for existing play areas?
- The development of new play areas in the Borough is partly dependent on funding bids from FCC Communities Foundation. Will the availability of such funding disappear after the closure of local land fill sites such as Dorket Head?

- Why does the Borough not fund and maintain play areas in the parished areas of the Borough?
- In view of the fact that the Council has voted against using glyphosphate herbicides on Council owned land, how does Parks and Street Care plan on controlling weeds on Council owned land?
- How does the Council plan to proceed with wild flower planting on open spaces and how will residents who live close by to such planting schemes be consulted with?

Cllr Gregory

- How is it proposed to increase participation in organised activities in parks and open spaces?
- Are there any plans to deliver a programme of community events and youth activities in parks, leisure centres and community centres during the summer holidays?
- What efforts are made to include all groups in the community to participate in activities?

3.6 Customised reports detailing performance outcomes for Q3 are attached at **Appendix 1 and 2** to assist members identify areas for consideration.

4 FUTURE PORTFOLIO HOLDER ATTENDANCE

4.1 The attendance of Councillors Barnes and Gregory concludes the 2020/21 programme of holding members of the Executive to account. Members are asked to consider if they would like to continue to use this method for holding the Executive to account and if they require a new programme to be arranged for the upcoming municipal year.

5 Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications arising out of this report.

6 Legal Implications

6.1 There are no legal implications arising out of this report.

7 Equalities Implications

7.1 There are no equalities implications arising out of this report

8 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

8.1 There are no carbon/environmental/sustainability implication arising out of this report.

9 Appendices

9.1 Appendix 1 Q 3 Environment
Appendix 2 Q 3 Community Development