

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Subject: Scrutiny Work Programme 2013/14

Date: 12 May 2014

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To introduce Councillor Darrell Pulk, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Development and Corporate Director Paula Darlington, who have been invited to attend the meeting as part of the rolling programme of Portfolio Holder holding to account.

2. BACKGROUND

At the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in 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 Leisure and Development Portfolio:

The planning process and the Town Centres Strategy.

Advance questions received from Members:

1. Given that GBC has spent public money on obtaining advice from URS regarding the best place to build, what to build and necessary infrastructure related to developments in Calverton, Ravenshead and Bestwood and given that the number of houses in each village has been decided, what is the sense of considering planning applications in these villages before the URS report has been received and considered?

2. What is the point of taking green belt land and designating it as white or safeguarded land unless it is to point developers at land that could be useful to them?

3. ONGOING PROGRAMME OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER ATTENDANCE

The final scheduled Portfolio Holder and Corporate Director attendance at Overview and Scrutiny Committee is as follows:

- **Committee date: 14th July 2014**

Councillor Fox: Community Development Portfolio
Corporate Director: Paula Darlington

Service for review: Neighbourhood working

3.1 Future programme

Members are asked to provide questions in advance and to consider a new schedule of attendance for 2015/16, to encompass the following Overview and Scrutiny Committee dates:

- 29th September 2014
- 15th December 2014
- 9th February 2015
- 13th April 2015

Draft proposals for attendance will be circulated at the Committee.

4. IN DEPTH SCRUTINY

The in - depth working groups below are coming to the end of their evidence gathering meetings with Portfolio Holders, Corporate Directors, partners and stakeholders and are considering their findings and recommendations.

4.1 Reducing unemployment in the Borough

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

Latest meeting: Thursday 1st May 2014 4.30 – 6pm

A verbal update about this meeting will be provided at Committee.

4.2 Homelessness and hardship in the Borough

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

Next meeting: Wednesday 11th June 5 – 6.30pm

The meeting will review all evidence gathered to date including the outcome of a day of fact finding visits arranged for Friday 6th June as follows:

Times	Project
11.00-12.00	Children's Centre Carlton Church View Rear of 53 Main Road Gedling
1.00 – 1.50	Sure Start, Netherfield. St Georges Centre
2.00 – 3.00	Elizabeth House

New in depth Scrutiny Review

Nominations are sought for working group members to commence a third review, 'Transport Links to the Borough' in late June 2014.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- Put forward relevant questions to the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Development.
- Agree a forward programme of Portfolio Holder holding to account
- Note the progress of in depth Scrutiny working groups
- Nominate working group membership for the 'Transport Links to the Borough' in – depth review.