

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Subject: Scrutiny Work Programme 2014/15

Date: 14 July 2014

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To consider the Portfolio of Councillor Fox, Portfolio Holder for Community Development, as part of the rolling programme of Portfolio Holder holding to account.

To receive updates on year end 2013/14 Council performance and agree the 2014/15 Scrutiny work programme.

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 Community Development Portfolio:

Neighbourhood working / Locality Coordination

A customised 'Covalent' report detailing the performance outcomes of the Community Development Portfolio is **attached at Appendix 1 and 1.1.**

2.1 Advance questions received from Members:

- a. How far has the Localities initiative proved to be 'Value for Money'?
- b. Do we have improved figures (indices of deprivation etc.) to justify the cost?

- c. Does Gedling intend to continue Localities working in the form it is, bearing in mind that one of the two Localities Coordinators now splits her time between Newstead and Killisick?

3. COUNCIL PLAN 2013/14: OVERVIEW OF YEAR- END PERFORMANCE

Stephen Bray, Corporate Director will provide an overview of Quarter 4 2013/14 performance and take questions from Members.

4. 2014/15 PROGRAMME OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER ATTENDANCE

The 2013/14 programme of Portfolio Holder attendance has now been completed and a draft programme has been compiled for the forthcoming year.

Draft Programme attached: Appendix 2.

Members are asked to consider which specific areas of each Portfolio they would like to examine in more detail at each meeting. The subject areas marked in bold are those which have not yet been examined by Scrutiny as part of the rolling programme.

5. IN DEPTH SCRUTINY

The in - depth working groups at 4.1 and 4.2 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.

The recommendations of both reviews will be reported to the December Scrutiny Committee.

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 26th June 2014

The meeting was attended by David Drury, consultant to the Employment and Skills Group, who presented proposals for bids for European Funding to address youth unemployment.

Councillors Gregory, P. Andrews and Hewson fed back in their attendance at the most recent Employment and Skills Group meeting.

4.2 Homelessness and hardship in the Borough

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

Latest meeting: Wednesday 11th June 2014

At the meeting, Councillors Lawrence, Hope and Hewson reported back on a day of fact finding visits to Children's Centres and Elizabeth House, attended on Friday 6th June.

Two more meetings will be scheduled in September and October as follows:

- a) Meeting with County Council representatives to consider the impact of the Supporting People budget reductions.
- b) Meeting with RCAN and the CCG to consider rural poverty issues and the role of the Health Authority in addressing issues relating to hardship.

4.3 New Scrutiny Review: Transport Links to, and within, the Borough.

Working Group members: Feeney, Paling, Pearson, Truscott, D. Ellis, P. Andrews and G. Clarke.

A meeting to scope this review has been scheduled as follows:

Tuesday 22nd July 4.30pm – 6pm in the Committee Room

Stephen Bray, Corporate Director will be in attendance to provide an overview of key transport issues and upcoming travel planning initiatives.

6. 6 MONTH FOLLOW UP ON COMPLETED REVIEWS

Six month follow up requests will shortly be issued to relevant Portfolio Holders on the **accepted** recommendations of the following completed reviews:

- The Council's engagement with the Voluntary Sector
- Inclusion and Equality
- Taxi Licensing

The follow up responses will be tabled at the September Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- Put forward relevant questions to the Cabinet Member attending in respect of the Community Development Portfolio.
- To note year end performance against the Council Plan 2013/14.
- Finalise the forward programme of Portfolio Holder holding to account.
- Note the progress of in depth Scrutiny working groups.