

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Subject: Holding the Portfolio Holder to Account.

Date: 11th February 2015

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- To consider the Portfolio of Councillor Henry Wheeler, Portfolio Holder, Health and Housing, 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 an annual rolling programme of attendance by Portfolio Holders and relevant Corporate Directors at committee, and to identify in advance 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, although 'ad hoc' questions may be put forward at the meeting itself.

This committee has elected to consider the following elements of the Health and Housing Portfolio:

- **Housing and Council Tax benefits**
- **Housing strategy**
- **Safeguarding.**

A customised 'Covalent' report detailing the performance outcomes for Q3 of the above Portfolio is **attached at Appendix 1.**

2.1 Questions in advance from Members

The following question has been submitted in advance from Members:

I. Councillor Hope

- What procedures does Gedling Borough Council have in place to ensure the safety of vulnerable adults and children?

Additional information on Q3 performance for the following items has also been requested:

- LI313 – percentage of families engaged with the Supporting Families Programme who will not require further support.
- LI314 - The number of private sector households where Housing Act category 1 or 2 hazards have been remediated
- LI099 - Percentage of those presenting for housing advice who submit a homeless application. Why is this increasing?
- NI555 – disappointingly no affordable housing delivered this quarter. Information about the delivery of the 60 units in 2016.

II. Councillor Weisz

- What plans are there for ensuring that people are provided with 'housing for life' when plans are agreed?
- As universal benefits are rolled out is there anything we can do to alert claimants to their responsibility for their council tax?
- Does Cllr. Wheeler have a view about any closer joining of resources at County level for adult and children's safeguarding?

3. 2014/15 PROGRAMME OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER ATTENDANCE

The current programme of Portfolio Holder attendance is now completed and it is proposed that the meeting on 13th April is used to conclude the 2014/15 Scrutiny work programme.

4. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Members:

- ask relevant questions to the Portfolio Holder for Health and Housing
- thank the Portfolio Holder, Health and other guests for their attendance.