

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Subject: Scrutiny Work Programme

Date: 13 April 2015

Author: Election and Members' Services Officer

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To receive information requested by Members and conclude the 2014/15 Scrutiny work programme.

2. RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Councillor Henry Wheeler, Portfolio Holder for Health and Housing, attended the last Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 11th February as part of the rolling programme of Portfolio holding to account. Members requested additional information regarding some of the areas discussed:

I. Performance Indicator L1 313, the percentage of families engaged with the Supporting Families Programme who will not require further support.

Members were concerned that the number of families in Gedling turned around is not as good as other areas, the value of the data and requested further clarification regarding:

- what is being measured – what the % figure relates to
- what improvements are made for young people, what measure is used to cease engagement with the Supporting People programme
- why performance in Gedling is not as good as other areas
- what is being done to improve performance?

Jenny Spencer, Operational Manager (Parenting & Troubled Families), Nottinghamshire County Council and David Jayne, Community Safety and Safeguarding Manager will attend the meeting to discuss work undertaken by the Troubled Families Programme.

II. Performance Indicator L1314 The number of private sector households where Housing Act category 1 or 2 hazards have been remediated and data regarding the number of evictions due to enforcement to improve properties.

This indicator is used to monitor the performance of the Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) investigating complaints about housing conditions for those living in rented accommodation. It is used to measure service requests received about both social housing and private rented tenants – the vast majority are private rented tenants.

The EHOs deal with most complaints informally by offering advice and/or asking landlords to remedy defects reported by their tenants. Where complaints are not resolved informally the EHO will arrange a full house inspection to which the landlord is invited. The inspection will assess the house against 29 hazards to health as per the Housing Health and Safety Rating System. Hazards are rated as category 1 or category 2 with category 1 being the most significant requiring the Council to serve Notice to remedy. This performance indicator measures the total number of category 1 or 2 hazards that have been remediated as a result of the council's involvement.

III. The feasibility of deducting Credit Union contributions from Gedling Borough employees' salaries.

Currently two employees have deductions taken from their pay for Credit Union savings. It is available to all current employees.

3. RECORDING OF MEETINGS

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 came into force on the 6th August 2014 and allows any person attending a council meeting which is open to the public, to report the meeting. Reporting includes filming, photographing or making an audio recording. Council has approved a standing order to prohibit recording of a meeting where the public are excluded.

Whilst Members support the principle of transparency this brings to meetings concern has been raised that this may compromise the Council if the recordings are edited in a way that could lead to misrepresentation or misinterpretation of proceedings.

Helen Barrington, Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer and Alec Dubberley Service Manager, Elections and Members' Services will attend the meeting to address Members concerns and answer questions.

4. COVALENT PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT: QUARTER 3 2014/2015

Stephen Bray, Corporate Director will provide an Overview of Quarter 3 2014/15 performance and take questions from Members.

5. IN DEPTH SCRUTINY

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee nominated three in depth Scrutiny Reviews to be undertaken as part of the 2014/15 work programme. All reviews in the programme have now been completed.

- **Transport Links to, and within Gedling Borough**

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

Members of this working group have completed their review and the final report and recommendations will be available at the first Overview and Scrutiny meeting after the election.

- **Homelessness and Hardship in the Borough**

The report and recommendations of the working group were considered by Cabinet on 12th February 2015 and the Portfolio Holders response is attached at **Appendix 1.**

- **Reducing Unemployment in the Borough**

The report and recommendations of the working group were considered by the Cabinet on 12th February 2015 and a response to the recommendations will be available at the next Overview and Scrutiny Committee

6. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Members:

- Consider and comment on the additional information regarding Performance Indicator L1 313
- note the additional information
- consider and comment on the information regarding the recording of meetings

- note the Quarter 3 performance information
- note response received in respect of the **Homelessness and Hardship in the Borough Scrutiny Review** and request a six month update on progress of the accepted recommendations.