

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Subject: Scrutiny Work Programme 2015/16

Date: 20 July 2015

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- i. To provide an update on scrutiny reviews undertaken in the 2014/15 work programme
- ii. To discuss the 2015/2016 scrutiny work programme.

2. SCRUTINY REVIEWS 2014/2015

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee carried out three in depth scrutiny reviews as part of the 2014/2015 work programme. All reviews in the programme have been completed.

- **Homelessness and Hardship in the Borough**

The report and recommendations arising from this report were approved at the 15th December 2014 Overview and Scrutiny Committee and referred to Cabinet on the 12th February 2015 for a response. A response to the recommendations was presented to the 13 April 2015 committee and a six month review of the recommendations will be available at the December committee.

- **Reducing Unemployment in the Borough**

The report and recommendations arising from this report were approved by the 15th December 2014 Overview and Scrutiny Committee and referred to the 12th February Cabinet along with a request for a response

from the relevant Portfolio Holder within 28 days of the meeting. Due to the election the response was delayed but is now available to this committee.

Appendix 1

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

The final report and recommendations are attached as an appendix to this report. Subject to the approval of this Committee the report will be submitted to the Cabinet meeting on the 30th July and Councillor Jenny Hollingsworth, Portfolio Holder Growth and Regeneration, will be asked to provide a written response within 28 days of that meeting. This will be available at the 8th October committee.

Appendix 2

3. 2015/2016 WORK PROGRAMME

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for managing the programme of work for scrutiny and prioritising topics for in depth scrutiny. In setting its work programme for scrutiny activity the Committee should aim to be flexible so that issues that arise in the year can be considered at the appropriate time. There are a number of areas that the committee has a duty to scrutinise for example Crime and Disorder matters and these will be scheduled for future meetings. Responses to earlier scrutiny reviews are also planned into the work programme.

Appendix 3

I. Scrutiny at committee

It has previously been agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee that the on-going Scrutiny of specific service areas within individual Portfolios would be dealt with at the Scrutiny Committee itself, rather than in working groups. Additional Scrutiny will only be conducted if deemed necessary by the Committee. A rolling programme of attendance by Portfolio Holders and relevant Corporate Directors for 2015/16 can be arranged. Members will be asked prior to each meeting which specific service areas they would like to examine. Questions for Portfolio Holders will be requested in advance of each meeting, however 'ad hoc' questions may be put forward at the meeting itself.

Service Area	Responsible Portfolio Holder	Corporate Director attending
Audit and Risk Managem't Customer Services and IT Financial Services Revenue Services Leisure	Cllr. Payne Cllr Wheeler	Mark Kimberley
Parks and Street Care Public Protection Waste Services Asset Management Transport Services Community Relations	Cllr Barnes Cllr Ellis Cllr Barnes Cllr Payne Cllr Hollingsworth Cllr Fox/Ellis	Dave Wakelin
Communications Planning Housing Economic Development	Cllr Payne Cllr Hollingsworth	Stephen Bray
Organisational development Legal Services Elections and Members Services	Cllr Payne	Helen Barrington

Portfolio Holder and Corporate Director information: Appendix 4 and 5

Members are asked to consider if they would like to continue with this rolling programme of Portfolio Holder attendance and to discuss and make suggestions for service areas they would like to examine at future meetings.

II. Scrutiny in working groups

The committee may decide to establish a working group to carry out a scrutiny review which would focus on a particular issue, making recommendations for improvement. Working groups will be nominated from members of the Committee, with an open and call for the involvement of those wider Members not currently sitting on Overview Scrutiny Committee or Cabinet.

Members are asked to consider and prioritise the following areas for in depth

review:

- **Smoking and Obesity**

The Gedling Health Profile 2015 gives a picture of people's health in Gedling and highlights a number of areas where the health of people in Gedling is below the England average. Deprivation is lower than average, however 15.7% of children live in poverty. Life expectancy is 8.7 years lower for men in the most deprived areas of Gedling however, for the whole of the borough life expectancy for men is higher than the average. The rate of smoking related deaths, hip fractures and TB are better than the average. Although there were some areas where Gedling was above the English average two particular areas were highlighted for concern as they are significantly worse:

- **Smoking status at the time of delivery**

It is well documented that smoking in pregnancy can lead to complications including breathing, feeding and health problems for new babies. Babies of women who smoke are, on average, 200g (about 8oz) lighter than other babies, have an increased the risk of sudden infant death syndrome and higher instance of asthma in childhood. In Gedling 15% of women are still smoking at the time of birth higher than the 12% in England.

- **Excess weight in adults**

There is an association between all causes of mortality and obesity. Obesity decreases life expectancy by up to nine years and is an important causal factor in diabetes, heart disease and stroke; it is linked to the development of some cancers alongside other long term health complications. There are many routes to which obesity is detrimental to wellbeing. 23.7% of adults in the Borough are obese, higher than the England average (2012).

- **Highway maintenance including the maintenance of trees on the highway**

The condition of the roads and highways is one of great concern to the public; the condition of trees at the roadside is relevant to safe travel for both car users and pedestrians and has an impact on domestic properties. Both these issues contribute to the environment in the borough. Although

Nottinghamshire County Council has the statutory duty, as the highways authority, to maintain the majority of highways Gedling has a responsibility to make sure that a safe and efficient highways network is available for residents. Key questions the review could look at include:

- what are the mechanisms available to the council and members of the public for improving the highways in Gedling Borough Council
 - how are road repairs prioritised
 - how issues relating to trees that are obstructing the highway, unsafe or impinge on domestic properties are resolved, could these be dealt with better?
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- **The Bonington Theatre**

The Bonington Theatre within the Arnold Leisure Centre is unique in England being the only purpose built combination of theatre and swimming pool. It is one of the best equipped theatres for its size in Nottinghamshire with 178 retractable seats and a flat floor stage and can accommodate up to 60 people. It is well liked by both visiting and resident performers; attracting audiences from all over north Nottinghamshire for its large and wide-ranging programme. The theatre and its facilities are available for hire; it is a flexible space with exceptional acoustics for rehearsals, performances, lectures, presentations and film screenings, photo and video shoots as well as a range of classes. Together, both spaces are ideal for a range of corporate events such as product launches, private parties and conferences. Areas for scrutiny could include:

- how well is this resource used
- how many local people attend performances
- are we making the best use of the facility
- what new initiatives could be taken to increase use?

- **GP waiting times**

How well are GPs surgeries performing in Gedling? Anecdotally we hear that there are many problems in getting access to GP services. Are they true and if so what can be done to improve patients overall experience? Issues to be examined could include:

- How good are GP practices in Gedling?
- How easy is it to get an appointment?

- How long is the wait for an appointment?
- How easy is it to get through on the phone?
- Is the surgery open when you need it?

Members may wish to consider these issues, look at areas in Gedling where this is of particular concern, explore what can be done to reduce prevalence not just by health partners but also by initiatives undertaken by the authority, for example how planning consideration could influence the availability of take away outlets, programmes by leisure centres and provision of information.

- **Care of the elderly**

10 million people in the UK are over 65 years old. These figures are projected to rise to more than five and a half million in 20 years' time.

Gedling has an aging population and by 2021 it is predicted:

- a 29% increase in 65+ year olds – 27,200 individuals
- 30% of these could have limiting life long illness – 8,000 individuals
- Within this 80+ year olds projected to increase by 77% - 4,900 individuals
- 45% of these are expected to have limiting life long illness.
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Although there is currently a wide range of help and support available for elderly people from both statutory and voluntary organisations will this be enough to meet the changing needs of the residents of Gedling?

Other issues members may want to consider include:

- **Mental Health services in Gedling**
- **Services for young people in the Borough**
- **Cemeteries**

Members are asked to consider:

- which issues they would like to look at in depth
- if they would like to receive information prior to establishing a working group to determine the focus and key questions for the review
- if they want to convene a working group to look at specific issues.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- note the information relating to 2014/15 scrutiny reviews
- agree the report and recommendations of the Transport Links to, and within Gedling Borough scrutiny review
- agree the rolling programme of portfolio holders
- agree how to take the scrutiny work programme forward.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Response to Unemployment in the Borough Scrutiny review

Appendix 2: Transport Links to, and within Gedling Borough

Appendix 3: Work programme

Appendix 4: Portfolio Holder Information

Appendix 5: Corporate Director Information