

**Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Subject: Scrutiny Work Programme 2015/16**

**Date: 5 October 2015**

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## **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To discuss the 2015/2016 scrutiny work programme.

## **2. SCRUTINY REVIEWS 2014/2015**

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

The final report and recommendations arising from this review were approved by the 20<sup>th</sup> July Overview and Scrutiny Committee and referred to Cabinet on the 30<sup>th</sup> July along with a request for a response from the relevant Portfolio Holder. The Portfolio Holders response and comments from Notts. County Council, Nottingham City Transport and Trentbarton are attached at **Appendix 1**.

## **3. 2015/2016 WORK PROGRAMME**

### **I. Scrutiny at committee**

- **Programme of Portfolio Holder holding to account**

At the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in July 20<sup>th</sup> 2015 Members agreed to continue with a programme of attendance by Portfolio Holders and relevant Corporate Directors at committee. Areas of performance within each Portfolio for examination will be identified and questions for Portfolio Holders submitted in advance of each meeting, however 'ad hoc' questions may be put forward at the meeting itself. Non-executive

members will also be invited to submit questions for the Portfolio Holder. The programme for 2015/16 is below.

The two remaining Portfolio Holders Councillor Peter Barnes, Environment and Councillor Kathryn Fox Community Development have not been included in the current programme. Members may want to consider if they would like to include them in the programme and have two Portfolio Holders attend a meeting or role their attendance forward into the 2016/17 programme.

The programme of Portfolio Holder attendance will commence at the 7 December meeting when David Ellis, Portfolio Holder for Public Protection, will attend. Areas which fall within this Portfolio include:

- i. Crime Reduction and Community Safety
- ii. Emergency Planning
- iii. Safeguarding
- iv. Environmental Health

Members are asked to consider which service areas they would like to examine in this Portfolio. If they have any specific issues they would like Councillor Ellis to address are requested to submit questions in advance of the meeting.

<b>2015/16</b>		
<b>PROGRAMME OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER ATTENDANCE</b>		
<b>Date of Committee</b>	<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>
<b>Monday 7 December</b>	<b>Councillor David Ellis</b>  <b>Corporate Director Dave Wakelin</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crime Reduction and Community Safety</li> <li>• Emergency Planning</li> <li>• Safeguarding</li> <li>• Environmental Health</li> </ul>
<b>Monday 22 February</b>	<b>Councillor J Clarke and</b>       <b>Councillor Michael Payne</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall Strategy and delivery of Council priorities and objectives</li> <li>• Oversight of all Cabinet responsibilities</li> <li>• Building and developing partnerships</li> <li>• Oversight of collaboration agreements</li> <li>• Budget strategy</li> <li>• Asset Management</li> </ul>

	Corporate Directors: Mark Kimberley Stephen Bray	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communications, marketing and promotion</li> <li>• Media relations</li> <li>• Customer services</li> </ul>
<b>Monday 25 April</b>	Councillor Henry Wheeler  Corporate Directors: Stephen Bray Mark Kimberley David Wakelin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leisure Centres and Sport development</li> <li>• Health promotion and development</li> <li>• Bonington Theatre</li> <li>• Homelessness and housing needs</li> <li>• Housing and Council Tax benefits</li> <li>• Liaison with Public Health and Clinical Commissioning Group</li> </ul>
<b>Monday 16 May</b>	Councillor Jenny Hollingsworth  Corporate Directors: Stephen Bray	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning policy</li> <li>• Transportation</li> <li>• Town Centre management and development</li> <li>• Onward investment</li> <li>• Housing Development</li> <li>• Employment and skills</li> </ul>

- **The Bonington Theatre**

At the July meeting Members discussed possible areas for review. The Bonington Theatre was an item they considered may be an issue for future examination. Prior to setting up a review group it was agreed to request some basic scene setting information to determine if this was something they would like to examine in further detail. Specifically information was requested regarding:

- how well the facility it is used
- the attendance figures
- if it breakeven/makes a profit
- if we make the best use of the facility
- what new initiatives are being taken to increase use

The report attached at **Appendix 2** provides this basic information to help Members to determine if this is an issue they would like to examine further either during the full committee or by convening a working group.

- **Recording of Meetings**

At the 20th July Overview and Scrutiny Committee Helen Barrington, Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer and Alec Dubberley, Service Manager Elections and Members' Services informed members about the options available for the recording of Council committee meetings in response to a request made at a previous Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Members were concerned about the potential for members of the public to record meetings and re-edit mischievously or maliciously. Members recommended that a system of voice webcasting is introduced and that a report proposing this be submitted to Cabinet for discussion.

A report detailing the committee's recommendation went to Cabinet on 24th September and a verbal update on the discussion and decision will be made to the Committee.

- **Information requested by Members**

At the last meeting of the committee Members requested information relating to the Planning Advisory report. The Planning Improvement Plan and review report has yet to be presented to the Planning Committee, after which information will be made available to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at which time a decision can be taken if this is an issue that the Committee would like to examine in more detail.

## **II. Scrutiny in working groups**

- **Obesity and Smoking**

Working Group members: Councillors McCrossen (Chair), Truscott, Bisset, Doyle, Walker and Hewson.

The committee has decided to establish a working group to carry out a scrutiny review which would focus Obesity and Smoking in the Borough which will consider what we as an authority can do to strengthen partnership working, improve coordination of services and what the authority, principally leisure and planning can do to influence and support partnership work. How can we support changes in behaviour and promote healthy lifestyles.

The first meeting of this working group took place on the 28<sup>th</sup> September when Anne Pridgeon, Senior Public Health Manager, Public Health - Nottinghamshire County presented data on the prevalence of and risk factors associated with excess weight. A draft scoping document was also

developed which will be available at the next Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

- A copy of the Scrutiny Work Programme 2015/2016 is attached at **Appendix 3.**

#### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- consider and comment on the responses to the Transport Links, to and within the borough review recommendations and schedule a further update if required
- agree the rolling programme of Portfolio Holder attendance and determine areas they would like to examine in the Public Protection Portfolio
- consider and comment on the information provided regarding the Bonington Theatre and schedule further consideration of this if required
- consider and comment on the Cabinet response to the recommendation to record committee meetings
- note the information regarding the Planning Improvement Plan.
- agree the scrutiny work programme.

#### **APPENDICES**

**Appendix 1: Transport Links to, and within Gedling Borough**

**Appendix 2: Bonington Theatre Report**

**Appendix 3: Scrutiny Work Programme**