

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Subject: Scrutiny Work Programme

Date: 27 June 2016

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- i. To inform the Committee, about the progress, made regarding the Councillor Call to Action
- ii. To provide an update on scrutiny reviews undertaken in the 2014/15, and 2015/16 work programme
- iii. To discuss the 2016/2017 scrutiny work programme.

2. COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION

This item is to update Members on the Councillor Call for Action, submitted by Councillor Ellwood, relating to the processes undertaken by the Council for the issuing of Section 215 notices, under the Town and Country Planning Act.

At the April meeting it was agreed that a small group of Members would examine this issue. A meeting has been held, with an officer from the Planning Department, who explained the process for processing Section 215 notices. Members identified a number of concerns, and will be holding a further meeting to examine these issues.

3. SCRUTINY REVIEWS 2014/2015

- **Transport Links to and Within Gedling Borough**

The final report and recommendations arising from this review were referred to Cabinet on July 30th. A response to the recommendations was presented to the committee on the 5th October 2015. Members of the Youth Council, who had been involved with this review, attended a meeting with Dave Astill, Commercial Manager, and Anthony Carver Smith, Marketing Manager, Nottingham City Transport, to discuss recommendations from the review. Specifically:

- the need to include young people in the paid mystery shoppers' initiative, and
- the need to advertise new concessionary information for young people via Rushcliffe District Council's YouNG website, and the places where young people gather, for example bowling alleys, cinemas, youth clubs, sports and leisure facilities.

They learnt that Nottingham City Transport uses mystery shoppers on certain routes, and it was agreed that consideration would be given to the feasibility of employing young people as mystery shoppers. This would allow the young people to provide a different perspective on the travelling experience. The range of concessionary fares, and mechanisms for promoting awareness of transport services, for young people was discussed. The issue of limited access to priority seating for disabled young people, who can be perceived by some passengers as less of a priority, and the impatient attitude of drivers to young people with disabilities, was considered. The Youth Council Members were informed that they should contact the Customer Research Enquiry Line, which records and monitors complaints, should they encounter problems when travelling.

4. SCRUTINY REVIEWS 2015/2016

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee carried out two in depth scrutiny reviews, as part of the 2015/2016 work programme. All reviews in the programme have been completed.

- **The Bonington Theatre**

The report and recommendations arising from this report were approved at the 25th April Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and referred to Cabinet on the 19th May for a response. A written response to the recommendations is attached at **Appendix 1**. Members will have the

opportunity to discuss and ask questions regarding the responses to the recommendations.

- **Obesity Working Group**

The final report and recommendations arising from the working group are attached at **Appendix 2**. Subject to the approval of this Committee, the report will be submitted to the Cabinet meeting on the 4th August, and Councillor Henry Wheeler, Portfolio Holder Housing, Health and Wellbeing, will be asked to provide a written response within 28 days of the meeting. This will be available at the 19th September Committee.

5. 2016/2017 WORK PROGRAMME

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for managing the programme of work 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. The current work programme is attached at **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 2016/17 can be arranged. Members will be asked prior to each meeting which specific service areas they would like to examine, and questions for Portfolio Holders will be requested in advance of each meeting, however 'ad hoc' questions may be put forward at the meeting itself.

Members are asked to consider:

- If they would like to continue with the rolling programme of Portfolio Holder attendance.

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 call for the involvement from wider Members not currently sitting on Overview Scrutiny Committee or Cabinet.

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 a specific issue.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- Note the information regarding the meeting undertaken by the Youth Councillors related to the Transport Links to and Within Gedling Borough recommendations
- Consider the Cabinet response to the Bonington Theatre Scrutiny Working Group recommendations
- Agree the report and recommendations of the Obesity Working Group
- Agree the rolling programme of Portfolio Holders
- Agree how to take the scrutiny work programme forward.

APPENDICES

**Appendix 1: Response to Bonington Theatre Working Group
Recommendations**

Appendix 2: Obesity Working Group Report

Appendix 3: Work Programme