

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Subject: Programme of Portfolio Holder Attendance.

Date: 27 June 2016

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To consider the areas of responsibility of the Leader of the Council, Councillor John Clark, and the Portfolio of Councillor Michael Payne, Portfolio Holder for Resources and Reputation, as part of the rolling programme of Portfolio Holder attendance.

2. BACKGROUND

At the 20th July 2015 Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 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, would be identified, and questions for Portfolio Holders submitted in advance of each meeting. 'Ad hoc' questions could be put forward at the meeting itself. Non-executive members would be also invited to submit questions for the Portfolio Holder.

3. 2016/2017 PROGRAMME OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER ATTENDANCE

Areas of responsibility:

I. Councillor John Clarke, Leader of the Council

- Overall strategy and delivery of agreed Council priorities and objectives.
- Oversight of all Cabinet responsibilities

- Building and developing relationships with partners at a local, regional, national and international level to pursue matters of interest to the Council and the community
- Representing the interests of the Council and the wider community on the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Combined Authority, East Midlands Council, and other key strategic local, regional and national bodies
- Oversight of the Council's Collaboration Agreement with Newark and Sherwood and Rushcliffe Councils
- Building and maintaining positive relationships with and between elected Members and employees
- Promoting and encouraging effective corporate governance and the highest standards of probity.

II. Councillor Michael Payne, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Resources & Reputation

- Budget strategy, financial management and local taxation
- Asset Management, including the Council's investment property, sales and purchase of land
- Communications, marketing and promotion
- Media relations
- Customer Services, information and communications technology.

Issues and questions identified in advance of the meeting to be discussed:

Councillor John Clarke

- I. Could you please provide the committee with a breakdown of the budget for the construction and enhancement of Gedling Country Park?
- II. What progress has been made on the combined authority bid?
- III. Could you outline the benefits of having Gedling Borough Council Members who are also County Councillors?
- IV. Can you please give me an update regarding the Country Park?

Councillor Michael Payne

- I. What progress is being made in the identification of options for a customer contact point in Carlton and the surrounding areas, *(recognising that the 5% progress could have changed in Quarter 4)?*
- II. What progress has been made to improve Civic Centre face to face reception arrangements?

A customised report detailing performance outcomes for Q4 for the above Portfolio is attached at **Appendix 1**.

Questions relating to the Growth and Regeneration, and the Health, Housing and Wellbeing Portfolios were received from Councillor Parr and written responses have been received.

- I. Where within the reported time scale-2015/16 do you envisage funding being secured for the intended recovery plan/usage, related to the current 'Parlous' state of both Redhill and Carlton Forum?

Leisure budgets are agreed by Council each year and the management of them is closely monitored and controlled. The total budget for Leisure over the last three years was as follows:-

2014/15	£1,349,100
2015/16	£1,428,000
2016/17	£1,528,300

Within this there is allocated budget for maintenance and repairs and renewals amounting to the following for the Boroughs 5 leisure facilities:-

2014/15	£101,300
2015/16	£94,500
2016/17	£104,500

In addition to the revenue budget for leisure there have been a number of capital projects since 2014 as follows:-

Arnold Leisure Centre – Theatre Audio/Visual Equipment £52,000 and
Theatre Toilet Refurbishment £12,000
Calverton Leisure Centre – Fitness Suite equipment replacement (partial)
£33,000
Redhill Leisure Centre – Fitness Suite equipment replacement (partial)
£95,000

All Sites – Leisure Management System £80,000

In addition the following schemes are currently work in progress and will see further significant investment in the leisure provision over the next 12 months:-

Arnold Leisure Centre

New Boilers and Combined Heat and Power Unit, costs approximately £285,000, and New Roof, £120,000

Bonington Theatre

Theatre changing room and staff toilets refurbishment approximately £5,000

Calverton Leisure Centre – Dry-side changing room full refurbishment costs approximately £25,000 and new ceiling in wet-side changing rooms wholly funded by Nott's County Council.

Carlton Forum Leisure Centre – New Health Suite and changing rooms refurbishment costs approximately £180,000 part funded by GBC, Carlton Forum Joint Use budget and Nott's County Council,

Redhill Leisure Centre – Possible new Full Size Third Generation Artificial Grass Pitch subject to successful application to the Football Foundation. Costs approximately £600,000 funded by Football Foundation grant up to £400,000 and £100,000 from GBC and Redhill Academy, Boiler replacement costs approximately £15,000 funded by Redhill Academy. New Exercise Studio Floor costs approximately £12,000

Richard Herrod Centre – Reception improvements costs approximately £9,000 and accessible toilet facility upgrade costs approximately £5,000

The impact of the investment to date has maintained a good quality leisure offer to the Gedling community such as the introduction of high quality cinema and improved fitness training equipment to retain existing members and attract new. Combined with the new schemes being proposed for delivery in 2016/17 the offer will be further improved such as new health suite at Carlton Forum Leisure Centre and the 3G AGP at Redhill Leisure Centre.

Moving forwards and in response to the challenge of continuous improvement, Gedling has recently introduced a Financial Business Partner model. Leisure now has its own Business Partner whose aim is to support the service area in delivering its outcomes by becoming an integral part of business and strategic planning, taking a forward looking and commercial view and ensuring added value. We are currently in the process of developing a forward plan which will prioritise current and future investment.

An overview of the recent customer satisfaction scores provided by the Net Promoter Survey (NPS) highlighted that of the 562 responders 44% scored our service as either a 9 or 10 out of 10 when asked the question 'would you recommend us to a friend'.

At the beginning of 2014/15 the total DNA membership was 3237 by the end of March 2015/16 it had grown to 3,913 a growth of 21%

In respect of swimming lessons the Council has achieved record numbers across the board with Arnold Leisure Centre climbing to over 800 swimmers currently enrolled on their swim scheme. Overall we have over 1700 swimmers enrolled on to swimming lessons compared to 1449 this time last year and 1178 in June 2014. This is through not only growing the stage 1-8 classes but by introducing new sections of the learn to swim school such as Disability swim stars and swimming lessons for 1-4 years.

Within the last two years all the leisure centres have been externally audited by Right Directions (leisure Specific Health and Safety Consultants)

The centres have seen a vast improvement in the management of Health and safety which is demonstrated by the following audit results:

Arnold Leisure Centre 2014/15 - 48% rising to 78% in 2015/16
Calverton Leisure Centre 2014/15 - 40% rising to 77% in 2015/16
Redhill Leisure Centre 2014/15 - 52%, rising to 73% in 2015/16
Carlton Forum Centre 2014/15 – 49%, rising to 69% in 2015/16

- II. What 'Strategic Plan' - Does the Portfolio Holder and her advisor have in place, to "Reduce significantly," levels of Youth Unemployment within the Borough?

Cllr Jenny Hollingsworth chairs the quarterly Employment and Skills partnership meetings. The membership of the group consists of internal departments, colleges, DWP, third sector organisations, employers, Nottinghamshire County Council and private training providers that support the ongoing development and delivery of targets to meet the employment and training needs of Borough residents. As part of the meetings Economic Development produce quarterly economic indicator updates to track unemployment across the borough to identify where assistance needs to be targeted. In addition partner organisations report on delivery that is taking place within the Borough and the number of residents accessing this support.

In relation to youth unemployment here are some examples of existing projects that feature within the delivery plan:

An employability programme is being delivered in all Gedling secondary schools. The programme highlights the importance of employability skills and the transferrable skills that young people can take from education into the 'world of work'. Each secondary school has received a fully facilitated employability event to help develop young people's employability skills and to provide them with the opportunity to engage with employers. Across the school year 1250+ students have benefited from this programme. We are about to carry out the employability audits within the schools to identify the work areas to be developed and delivered for the new school year.

Jobs Fairs and Apprenticeship Fairs delivery. Economic Development delivered an apprenticeship fair during National Apprenticeship Week in March to support young people to secure apprenticeship vacancies with local employers. A jobs fair is being planned for September which will support those that have finished in full-time education.

The YouNG programme has been introduced in Gedling to identify and promote work experience placements to those aged 16-24 years. The team are currently identifying work experience placements to be carried out over the summer period. In addition young people are invited to take a market stand at the Gedling Carnival and Arnold Show to develop their enterprise skills and explore potential self-employment opportunities.

The Council has been approved to deliver the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) Client Based Approach for all eligible development sites across the Borough. This means that an employment and skills delivery plan will be developed for each site which will outline work and skills related outcomes that need to be delivered during the term of the build. This will include work experience placements; direct employment for the unemployed, traineeships and apprenticeships. Gedling Colliery have an approved employment and skills plan which will go live in September and two further developments are currently writing their method statements for delivery.

The ERASMUS+ funded programme to remove barriers to employers taking up apprenticeships went live in September 2015. As part of the project a two-year pilot programme will support small to medium enterprises from September 2016. During the course of the programme the Council will

engage 90 employers to recruit their first apprentice and generate 120 apprenticeship opportunities. These opportunities will be open to school leavers and those that are unemployed.

The Economic Development Department works with Jobcentre to identify work experience opportunities for those aged 18-24 years old. We work collaboratively to identify training and work opportunities to support young people to get into work.

Economic Development signpost young people to services that support with job search and preparing young people to get into work. These include the Work Clubs, the National Careers Service and a range of training providers.

4. FUTURE PORTFOLIO HOLDER ATTENDANCE

Councillor Peter Barnes, Portfolio Holder Health, Environment, will be attending the next meeting of the committee to give Members the opportunity to examine areas within his Portfolio.

This includes:

- Waste Management.
- Street cleaning.
- Maintenance and development of parks, open spaces, cemeteries and allotments.
- Energy management and sustainability.

A customised report detailing performance outcomes for Q4 for the above Portfolio is attached at **Appendix 2** to assist Members' identify areas for consideration.

Members' are invited to discuss which areas they would like to look at in depth.

5. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Members:

- Consider, ask questions and comment on the information provided
- Thank the Leader and Deputy Leader and other guests for their attendance

- Identify areas in the Environment Portfolio for examination at the September meeting.

APPENDICIES

Appendix 1: Q4 Performance Leader and Deputy

Appendix 2: Q4 Performance Environment