



SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

16:30 -18:45

16 July 2020

Present: Councillors Wright (chair), Brociek-Coulton (substitute for Cllr Ryan), Carlo, Fulton-McAlister (M), Giles, Grahame, McCartney-Gray, Oliver, Osborn, Sands (S), Sarmezey, and Thomas (Vi)

Apologies: Councillors Manning and Ryan

1. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Public questions/petitions

There were no public questions or petitions.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED to approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2020.

4. Norfolk Countywide Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny sub panel appointment

Following a vote it was:-

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Giles as the representative and Councillor Sarmezey as the substitute.

5. Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny committee appointment

Following a vote it was:-

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor McCartney-Gray as the representative and Councillor Oliver as the substitute.

6. Annual review of the scrutiny committee 2019-20

The chair presented the report.

A member commented that it would be useful to have an indication of what had happened to the recommendations made by the scrutiny committee after the meetings. It was agreed that a scrutiny recommendations tracker document would be included in the standing work programme item going forward and a table of actions resulting from recommendations made in 2019-20 civic year would be circulated to all councillors for consideration alongside the annual review at the July meeting of full council.

Members discussed the select committees and a member said that the fly tipping and antisocial behaviour select committee should continue its work over the next civic year as the topic had been suggested by a member of the public.

RESOLVED to recommend the annual review of the scrutiny committee 2019-20 for approval at the next available meeting of full council, with the addition of a table of actions arising from recommendations made.

7. Setting of the scrutiny committee work programme 2020-21

The chair introduced the report. He said that following discussion, members would be asked to vote on the list of suggested topics and develop a scope for the item to be considered at the September meeting of the scrutiny committee. He would invite the member who had suggested each topic to do a short presentation on it.

Councillor Osborn introduced the Safer Neighbourhoods Initiative item. He said that crime and antisocial behaviour was a big issue for residents, albeit a complex one, and council performance on it should be reviewed in order to make improvements. The strategy manager said that covid had had a huge impact on the work in this areas and if members decided to include a review of this work on the work programme, it needed to be scheduled for later in the year to allow progress to be made. A member suggested that the committee could look at how the neighbourhood teams worked in different areas and the effectiveness of their work.

Councillor Osborn introduced the Public Space Protection Order topic. He said that this was in response to a recommendation made by the scrutiny committee following its meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner in February. The police had said that public space protection orders were a useful tool which could be implemented with partners. The chair clarified that when cabinet considered the recommendations of the meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner, there were concerns that Public Space Protection Ordered could criminalise certain people and suggested that the scrutiny committee looked at this in more detail. The strategy manager said that there were two strands to this; the current Public Space Protection Order which focussed on the city centre and then the use of Public Space protection Orders generally. He suggested that if this was a topic to be taken forward, the committee should look to focus on one of these.

Councillor Osborn introduced the item on reducing waste. This topic was something that came up in comments from residents around waste collection and there could be

some scrutiny around the council's performance on reducing waste targets. He wanted to ensure that this was not a service which could collapse if there was a second peak of Coronavirus. The reduction of waste would have an environmental impact and linked to the circular economy aspect of the Covid Recovery Blueprint by turning waste into by-products.

Councillor Osborn introduced the item on car parking revenue. The council relied heavily on car park income which had been hit hard by the impact of Coronavirus. If the council was looking at reducing volumes of traffic coming into the city, there was also a need to look at different ways of raising income. Car parks took up space which could be used in a better way. There would be two strands to the work; how to reduce cars parking in the city centre and how to do this sustainably by finding other income streams to make up the revenue. The director of strategy and culture said that the committee would need to think about how this fitted in with other budget setting work which would come back to the scrutiny committee over the coming months.

Members agreed that the item on council finances could be dealt with under the usual standing budget items on the work programme.

Councillor Giles introduced the item on the economy. Local government had a unique place to be able to feed into economic policy from central government. The work of the Good Economy Commission and the Norwich City Council Economic Strategy could both be reviewed in light of the pandemic. A member commented that as the topic was quite broad, it could have a specific focus of how Norwich City Council could use its role as an anchor institution to stimulate a more sustainable economy. It was suggested that there would be an opportunity to feed into the Good Economy Commission so the committee could wait until this work had been completed.

Councillor McCartney-Gray introduced the item on enhancing community development. Norwich had developed essential groups of individuals and communities that had worked with officers during the lockdown to help those most at risk. The council should look at opportunities to support these groups going forward and to look at areas where there was less support. The strategy manager said that there was information in the Recovery Blueprint document around contacting local groups but there was a lot of very intensive work taking place in the community enabling team. Officer input and the amount of work needed around the topic should be carefully considered as the work was not at a stage to be scrutinised.

Councillor Giles introduced the social inclusion agenda item. He said that the pandemic had an impact on poverty levels and social security and adding this item to the work programme would give an opportunity to examine good practice advice from agencies such as the Norfolk Community Advice Network. There were various performance measures that could be scrutinised. A member commented that the committee would need to think about where the council could have the greatest impact around such a broad topic and practical recommendations would be needed.

Councillor McCartney-Gray introduced the item on zero rough sleeping. She said that the Pathways service was an amazing achievement but as a result of the pandemic and the end of eviction bans in September, it was an issue that needed to be looked at again. A member commented that government would be issuing further

announcements around tackling homelessness so any work undertaken by the scrutiny committee could tie into this.

The strategy manager reminded members that some of the topics they were considering were still wide ranging, ongoing pieces of work due to the pandemic, so there may be a need to refine the scope of these. The chair reminded members that top four topics would be added to the work programme to take the committee up to the end of 2020 to ensure that there was space on the work programme of issues that may arise during the year.

(Members took a fifteen minute break while the votes for each item were collated.)

RESOLVED:

(1) At the September meeting of the scrutiny committee to:

- a) receive a report from the select committee on short term lets; and
- b) ask the scrutiny liaison officer to approach the LEP to attend the meeting to pick up the work that the committee was due to undertake in March 2020

(2) Ask the scrutiny liaison officer to add the following items to the scrutiny committee work programme

- a) Sustainable and inclusive economy following the impact of Covid-19
- b) Enhancing community development following the impact of Covid-19
- c) Maximising opportunities to achieve zero rough sleeping following Covid-19
- d) The social inclusion agenda following Covid-19

CHAIR