



SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

16:30 to 17:40

30 May 2019

Present: Councillors Ryan (vice chair following election), Carlo, Fulton-McAlister (M), Giles, Grahame, Manning, McCartney-Gray, Osborn, Sarmezey and Stutely (substitute for Councillor Oliver)

Apologies: Councillors Wright (chair), Oliver, Sands (S) and Thomas (Vi)

1. Appointment of vice chair

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Roger Ryan as vice chair for the ensuing civic year.

(Councillor Ryan took the chair)

2. Public questions/petitions

There were no public questions or petitions

3. Declarations of interest

Councillor McCartney-Gray declared a pecuniary interest in item 5 below 'appointment of a representative and substitute for the Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee' as she was employed by the Norwich Clinical Commissioning Group.

4. Minutes

RESOLVED to approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2019.

5. Appointment of representative and substitute to the Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

(Councillor McCartney-Gray left the meeting for the duration of this item)

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Sarmezey as the representative and Councillor Fulton-McAlister (M) as the substitute for the Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the ensuing civic year.

(Councillor McCartney-Gray was readmitted to the meeting)

6. Appointment of representative and substitute to the Norfolk Countywide Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny sub panel

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Ryan as the representative and Councillor Giles as the substitute for the Norfolk Countywide Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny sub panel for the ensuing civic year.

7. Setting of the scrutiny committee work programme for 2019-20

The strategy manager presented the report and explained the purpose of the work programme. He reminded members that it was not a static document and there was a standing item on every scrutiny committee agenda to allow discussion on the work programme. In response to a member's question, he confirmed that the scrutiny committee could pre-scrutinise decisions and make recommendations or it had the power to call in key decisions made by cabinet or delegated to officers within the statutory time scales.

Political groups had been asked for suggestions in advance for potential topics. Three additional topics had been received after the agenda papers had been published and were circulated at the meeting. These covered items on air quality and transport, anti-social behaviour and city council processes and developer contributions to affordable housing. The strategy manager highlighted an email received from the Russell Street Community Area Residents Association asking the committee to include a topic around fly tipping and litter.

Members discussed which of the suggested items could be allocated to a select committee to take forward. Members agreed that the best topics to be looked at in this way would be antisocial behaviour, including fly tipping, the introduction of a universal basic income and climate change.

Discussion ensued on the timing of items for the work programme. A member commented that climate change and air quality should be separate topics as they were both wide ranging subjects. A member suggested that climate change should be looked at in July to ensure that appropriate action was being taken as soon as possible. After discussion, it was agreed that the committee would consider the topic of air quality in July, alongside a discussion on setting a select committee to consider climate change and would look at climate issues alongside the Environmental Strategy in January.

It was proposed that no topic be scheduled for the October meeting to allow for any additional topics that may arise in the first half of the civic year.

Members discussed the proposed topic of austerity and young people and the vice chair suggested that the meeting be held at a venue such as Norwich City College or the University of East Anglia to give young people more opportunity to engage with the topic. Member suggested inviting spokespersons from the Youth Advisory Board, New Roots, MAP, YMCA, those with special educational needs, young carers, care leavers and BME communities.

A member suggested that the piece of work on the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) could be a piece of joint scrutiny with other counties. The strategy manager suggested that representatives from other county scrutiny committees could be invited to work with the Norwich City Council scrutiny committee.

It was therefore:-

RESOLVED to:

- (1) ask the scrutiny liaison officer to add the following items to the scrutiny committee work programme 2019-20:
 - a) Norwich economic strategy (June)
 - b) Practical steps to improve air quality in Norwich and climate change update (July)
 - c) Transforming cities fund (September)
 - d) Young people and austerity (November)
 - e) New Anglia LEP (December)
 - f) Climate mitigation and the Environmental Strategy(January)
 - g) Pre-scrutiny of the budget 2020-21
 - h) Universal Basic Income task and finish group report and annual review of the scrutiny committee (March)
- (2) Consider at the June meeting of the committee the formation of select committees covering the following topics:
 - a) Universal basic income
 - b) Anti-social behaviour including fly tipping and city council processes
 - c) Climate change
- (3) Ask group leaders to consider an all member briefing on Universal Basic Income.

CHAIR