



## SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**4.30pm to 6.30pm**

**19 December 2013**

**Present:** Councillors Stephenson (chair), Boswell (substitute for Councillor Brimblecombe), Bradford, Brociek-Coulton, Button (substitute for Councillor Grenville), Carlo, Galvin, Howard, Lubbock, Manning, Maxwell, and Storie.

**Apologies:** Councillors Brimblecombe, Grenville and Sands (S)

### **1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **2. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** to agree the minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2013.

### **3. WORK PROGRAMME**

The head of city development services gave members an update on 20mph speed limits. He said that the Norwich Highways Agency Committee (NHAC) had reviewed Norfolk County Council's speed limit policy and said it seemed that there would be more scope in the future to introduce lower speed limits.

The scrutiny officer reminded the committee that the issue of 20mph speed limits was being kept sight of via the tracker and could be added to the work programme once all information had been received. This would enable members to make an informed decision with regard to if or how they might carry out and future scrutiny of the topic.

**RESOLVED** to note the work programme.

#### 4. PERFORMANCE MONITORING

The leader of the council introduced the report.

In response to a member's question on SCC2, the percentage of domestic waste sent to reuse, recycling or compost; the executive head of strategy, people and democracy said that there were currently no plans to reduce the resources for 2014/15 surrounding the education work on recycling. He said that the introduction of the new recycling contract and therefore the inter mingling of recyclable products would make communications surrounding recycling easier to deliver. Regarding this, the Leader of the council said that work was constantly being undertaken with partners such as the student union. In connection with this, a member praised the work of the neighbourhood officers on their work with residents on recycling.

Referring to member's concerns with regard to SCC6, reducing the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads (the target was 47 and the current actual for the period was 57.7), the head of city development services explained that there were three ways in which they were working to reduce this figure. These were putting appropriate speed limits in place, pedestrian crossings, police enforcing speed limits and county wide education programmes such as 'Think Bike' and the current 'Keep your eyes on the road' campaign. He also said that speed awareness message (SAM) signs were due to be rolled out in the city. The leader of the council added that she would be happy to take the item to a meeting of the locality board for discussion.

A member commented that speed reduction should be a high priority in terms of allocating funding and that it would be useful to have regular information on road safety such as mapping of accident sites and causation.

In response to a member's question, the leader of the council explained the measures being undertaken to reduce avoidable contact. The executive head of strategy, people and democracy explained that communications sent out by the council were closely monitored with regards to avoidable contact and that one of the main causes of such contact was customers calling to confirm appointments. He explained that a system of text message confirmations was currently being trialled in the housing department with a view to reducing the amount of avoidable contact.

**RESOLVED** to request that:

- (1) the scrutiny officer looks into the trends and reporting for KSI data and how the scrutiny committee may engage with partners in investigating the associated issues around road safety in Norwich and how these may be addressed;
- (2) the leader of the council takes the discussion on road safety measures to a meeting of the locality board and any outcomes are reported back to the scrutiny committee; and
- (3) the head of city development services provides information on the speed awareness message sign rollout and for this to be included on the tracker.

## 5. OVERVIEW OF THE CORPORATE PLAN 2012 - 2015

The leader of the council introduced the report.

A member expressed concerns that with regards to the target for reduction of carbon emissions, the definition of operations was very narrow and only included council buildings and not housing stock. This meant that small emission reductions would be vastly outweighed by other council activities. The executive head of strategy, people and democracy explained that this measure was based on a previous national indicator NI185 and that covered council owned buildings, transport and operations.,. Another measure called NI186 measured emissions for the City as a whole and this included the housing stock. These indicators were measured by the Department of Energy and Climate Change and were not something that the city council itself would be able to collect data on due to its complexity.

The leader of the council added that key council owned buildings eg City Hall were of listed building status which meant that the council was restricted on what improvements could be made to reduce carbon emissions. However, this council remained as one of the best performing in this regard.

In response to a member's question, around the proposed change to the Corporate plan target for the percentage of compliant food safety inspections, the executive head of strategy, people and democracy explained that the original target was always considered to be very ambitious and stretching and that the revised target would still represent very good performance. Members were reassured that those businesses falling below standard were routinely monitored and revisited and that the council had the powers to close an establishment if they were not compliant with food safety regulations.

**RESOLVED** to note the proposed changes to the Corporate plan for 2014 - 2015

CHAIR