



SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4.30pm – 6pm

17 July 2014

Present: Councillors Wright (chair) Maxwell (vice chair) Barker, Bogelein, Carlo, Galvin, Haynes, Herries, Howard, Manning, Packer, Ryan and Woollard

1. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meetings held on 19 June 2014 subject to a sentence being added to the penultimate paragraph of item 6 as follows:

“The recommendations given by the scrutiny committee on ensuring documents are clear and accessible to all should be applied to all documents produced by the council.”

3. SETTING OF THE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2014 -15

The scrutiny officer presented the report and gave a presentation to the committee. This was followed by a presentation from the policy officer on equalities with relation to the work of the scrutiny committee.

The committee broke into two groups to discuss proposed objectives for a shortlist of topics agreed at the member’s pre-meeting. The draft work programme was used as a starting point to scope timescales for the topics. Recurring items such as the pre-scrutiny of the council’s draft policy framework (corporate plan) and budget and the performance and budget monitoring reports had already been allocated. The policy officer asked to include a pre-scrutiny of the annual equality information report on the work programme.

The topics discussed were:

Private rented housing market

Members wanted to look at the demographic of those living in houses of multiple occupancy as well as ways to safeguard tenants in the private rented sector.

Street scene and road safety overview

Members wanted to form an overview of road casualty trends in Norwich and the work carried out to reduce casualties in order to make evidence based recommendations on keeping the city's roads safe.

Communal space management and policy

Members wanted to review the current policy and look for opportunities for improvements by working alongside tenants.

Welfare reform and all agency advice

Members wanted to look whether the council was meeting the need for advice and to see if there were any gaps in provision of or access to advice. Also included would be an investigation into any barriers to access of advice services.

Task and finish group – self-esteem and aspiration

The scrutiny officer explained that a task and finish group would work closely with officers to produce a report to the scrutiny committee which once completed would be sent to the relevant body for consideration. The objective of the task and finish group would be to find ways to build community capacity and resilience, including work on digital communities and mental health.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To ask the scrutiny officer to finalise the scrutiny committee work programme, to include the five topics discussed at the meeting and to present the final programme to the scrutiny committee at the next available meeting,
- 2) To include pre scrutiny of the annual equality information report on the work programme;
- 3) To set up a self-esteem and aspiration - task and finish group consisting of councillors Galvin (chair) Bogelein, Herries and Woollard to look at self-esteem and aspiration.