



SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4.35pm to 6.15pm

19 June 2014

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

Also present: Councillor Arthur

Apologies: Councillors Herries and Maxwell

1. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

RESOLVED to appoint councillor Maxwell as the vice chair.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meetings held on 20 March 2014 and 8 April 2014 subject to the last sentence of the twelfth paragraph being amended to read "...he said that stakeholders were partners in developing the strategy..."

4. APPOINTMENT OF A REPRESENTATIVE AND A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE NORFOLK HEALTH OVERVIEW SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED to appoint councillor Woollard as the representative and councillor Bogelein as the substitute.

5. APPOINTMENT OF A REPRESENTATIVE AND A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY PANEL

RESOLVED to appoint councillor Galvin as the representative and councillor Carlo as the substitute.

6. GROWTH BOARD BUSINESS PLAN

The leader of the council presented the report.

Discussion ensued in which the city growth and development manager answered member's questions.

She explained that the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money was not the only source of funding for the identified projects. As the process evolved, funding streams would be taken advantage of as they arose. As the majority of the infrastructure would be needed once development had begun, the CIL funding would have already been received. This helped to add resilience to the plan. There was a smaller amount of CIL funding pooled in the 2013 – 14 budget than in the 2014-15 projected budget as CIL had only been introduced in July of 2013. A percentage of the CIL money would be held by Norwich City Council to fund local schemes for development and this would be a community driven process.

The list of projects identified were those which were ready to start, subject to funding being received. There was a need to ensure that briefs were prepared in anticipation of funding becoming available as there were only short timescales for delivery. The deputy chief executive (operations) explained that these projects had been developed over a number of years and explained that the Norwich Area Transportation Strategy (NATS) identified transport projects needed and the joint core strategy identified support for growth measures including green infrastructure and utilities.

Members expressed concerns about the accessibility of the document with regards to the abbreviations used and the presentation of the information. The deputy chief executive (operations) apologised for the use of abbreviations within the document. Members were keen to ensure that the document was accessible and understandable. The leader of the council highlighted that some changes to the document would be able to be made straightaway but others would be taken into consideration when the next business plan was compiled.

The scrutiny officer reminded members that if they had any further questions about the document, they could email these to him by 27 June to be circulated to the relevant officer.

RESOLVED to ask the deputy chief executive (operations) to:-

- 1) Amend the report to include:
 - a) a glossary and live links to background documents,
 - b) a short summary at the beginning of the document,
 - c) table names within the document to allow these to be standalone pieces of information; and
 - d) an explanation of the reasons why any given project was selected; and
- 2) To update on the projects identified as part of the six monthly performance data scrutiny.

7. PERFORMANCE MONITORING

The leader of the council presented the report.

The executive head of strategy people and democracy answered member's questions on the performance data.

He explained the process followed by the council when someone presented themselves as homeless, including the work of the home options team, the rough sleep co-ordinator and the advice services provided. He also explained the procedure for collecting the quarterly customer satisfaction information.

The deputy chief executive (operations) explained the reasons for the underspend in the hardship fund as well as other overheads in the housing capital programme. Any works not completed would be rolled over into the next financial year. The impact of the spare room subsidy had not been as severe as anticipated which meant there was an underspend in the hardship fund.

The executive head of strategy, people and democracy reminded members that teams were only encouraged to spend the minimum needed to deliver the priorities of the council and not spend to budget if unnecessary.

RESOLVED :

- a) to ask the relevant officer to circulate mapping showing the problem hotspots for street cleaning; and
- b) To ask the relevant officer to circulate the percentage of those who presented as homeless to the council but were unable to be provided with any assistance.

CHAIR