

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

16:35 to 18:15

17 December 2015

Present: Councillors Wright (chair), Maxwell (vice chair), Bogelein, Coleshill, Grahame, Haynes, Herries (substitute for Sands) Manning, Peek, Packer, Raby, Ryan, and Schmierer

Apologies: Councillor Sands (S)

1. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2015.

3. Scrutiny committee work programme 2015 -2016

The chair proposed that a piece of work be undertaken on the Push the Pedalways scheme due to the expenditure and interest from residents of Norwich. He suggested that it would be a good learning exercise as the council went forward with the next phase of the scheme.

It was agreed that this item would be considered at the meeting on the 17 March 2016, replacing the academies item. The chair suggested that the possibility of joint scrutiny with Norfolk County Council members could be considered for the academies item and that an extra meeting could be arranged if this were to go ahead.

RESOLVED to:-

- a) add scrutiny of the Push the Pedalways scheme to the scrutiny committee work programme on 17 March 2016 replacing the academies item;
- b) ask the strategy manager to contact scrutiny committee members in mid-January 2016 asking for input on the scope of the Push the Pedalways item,

- c) ask the chair to make a request to Norfolk County Council to explore the option of joint scrutiny around the academies topic and how this impacts residents in the Norwich City Council area; and
- d) Subject to resolution c) resulting in a joint meeting, to arrange an additional meeting of the scrutiny committee to accommodate the academies topic.

4. Update of the representative for the Norfolk County health overview and scrutiny committee

The substitute representative on the Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (NHOSC) gave members a verbal update on the last meeting. She said that the NHOSC had discussed that the provision of stroke services could be much better in rural areas as the first hour in stroke cases was vital. A recruitment crisis meant that there had been a loss of stability and expertise in this area. The strategy manager said that he was in regular contact with colleagues in public health services and would circulate information to members on the work being undertaken to raise awareness of serious illnesses.

Members discussed mental health services for children and that a lack of access to mental health support and treatment led to children being excluded from school.

The representative on the NHOSC said that they had the option to concentrate on more specific subjects at the February meeting. She asked that members forward any suggestions for future topics of discussion to her prior to the meeting of the NHOSC on 25 February 2016.

RESOLVED to:

- a) ask Councillor Bogelein to raise the topic of the midwife recruitment crisis and parking permits for midwives at the February meeting of the NHOSC; and
- b) ask scrutiny committee members to send ideas for further topics for consideration at the NHOSC to Councillor Bogelein prior to the meeting on 25 February 2016.

5. Quarterly performance report

The strategy manager presented the report. He said that the questions received in advance of the meeting from the scrutiny committee members would be added to the scrutiny tracker.

In response to a member's question, the strategy manager said that he would liaise with the relevant portfolio holder and head of service to investigate whether an alternative measure for HCH3 (the number of empty homes brought back into use) could be introduced that the council had more active control over.

RESOLVED to ask the strategy manager to investigate the possibility of amending the measure around HCH3 (the number of empty homes brought back into use) to one which the council has more active control over, in conjunction with the relevant portfolio holder and head of service.

6. Draft equality information report

The strategy manager presented the report. Discussion ensued and in response to a members question, the executive head of strategy, people and neighbourhoods said that customer satisfaction figures were already published online as part of the quarterly performance reports but could be included in the draft equality information report in graphical format.

RESOLVED to ask the strategy manager to compile to customer satisfaction figures to be put into a graph format to show trends and provide context for inclusion in the draft equality information report to cabinet.

7. Exclusion of the public

RESOLVED to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of item *8 (below) on the grounds contained in the relevant paragraphs of Schedule12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

***8. Transformation update**

The head of neighbourhood housing and the chief finance officer presented the report and answered member's questions.

RESOLVED to:

- a) thank officers for a clear explanation of a complicated subject,
- b) thank Russell O'Keefe for his work over the years with the scrutiny committee;
and
- c) ask the head of neighbourhood housing to discuss with the communications team publicising the changes to the Housing and Planning Bill in the most appropriate way.

CHAIR