NORWICH City Council

MINUTES

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

16:35 to 18:10 **6 July 2015**

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

Apologies: Councillors Packer and Peek

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 11 June 2015.

3. Scrutiny committee work programme 2015 -2016

The chair updated the committee on the work programme and said that the topic on the co-operative agenda in local government and the topic on academies would be scoped over the summer.

RESOLVED to note the scrutiny committee work programme 2015 – 2016

The chair agreed to take item 6 ‘establishing a local housing company’ as the final item due to the need to exclude the public before discussing the appendices.

4. Quarter 4 performance report

The policy and performance manager presented the report. He thanked members for the questions that had been received in advance of the meeting and said that it was always preferable for them to submit detailed questions on the performance indicators in advance of the meeting to allow relevant officers to provide a response. The chair suggested that any detailed questions be sent to the scrutiny officer who would arrange for the relevant head of service to provide information.

RESOLVED to:

a) note the quarter 4 performance report; and

b) ask members to submit detailed questions on the performance data to the scrutiny officer.

5. Norfolk health overview and scrutiny committee update 28 May 2015

The chair reminded the committee that the first meeting of the Norfolk health overview and scrutiny committee had taken place before the committee appointed its representative.

Councillor Bogelein gave a brief update on the training session she received as the representative. She said that the remit of the committee was only to comment on commissioned services at a local level.

RESOLVED to:

a) note the update from the representative; and

b) remind members to liaise with Councillor Bogelein if they wish to raise any issues

6. Establishment of a local housing development company

The executive head of regeneration and development presented the report.

Members discussed the governance arrangements set out in the report. The cabinet member for resources and income generation said that similar governance arrangements already existed within local government with joint ventures and directed members to the examples given in the report.

In response to a member's question, the executive head of regeneration and development assured the committee that the business plan would be under ongoing review and that development opportunities would be considered as they arose.

He said that the residents on the new development would pay a maintenance supplement and the housing development company would take responsibility for maintenance and would ensure that all tenants would be catered for and would be managed effectively.

A member questioned the location and the appearance of the planned social housing. The executive head of regeneration and development said that a lot of thought had been put into the design of the properties and the social housing would have the same design as the other properties and would be spread throughout the development. He also confirmed that each property for private sale would be freehold.

RESOLVED to note the report on establishment of a local housing company.

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 schedule 12a of the local government act 1972 (as amended).

*8. Establishment of a local housing development company (appendices)

The executive head of regeneration and development presented the appendices and answered member's questions on the following topics:

- Rental prices
- Sensitivity analysis
- Leases and conditions of sale
- Risk
- Tax requirements

Following this discussion, it was:-

RESOLVED to ask cabinet to consider:

a) that the scrutiny committee were in favour of taking the project forward and were enthusiastic to see it expanded to other development sites; and

b) making the building of sustainable communities an objective of the local housing development company.

CHAIR