



SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

16:35 to 18:10

13 July 2017

Present: Councillors Wright (chair), Brociek-Coulton (vice chair) Bogelein, Bradford, Bremner, Coleshill, Grahame, Haynes, Jones (B), Manning, Malik, Packer and Thomas (Va)

1. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes

It was noted that at the second paragraph on page four of the minutes, the word 'sound' should be replaced with the word 'thought' so that the fourth sentence should read 'She asked that more thought be put into crossings as some people were unable to see the green light to cross the road if there were people standing in front of them.'

Members discussed the accuracy of the resolutions of the item on city accessibility and it was:-

RESOLVED to amend the resolutions for reasons of accuracy to read:

- (1) ask cabinet to formulate a city access charter and to extend consultations on such a charter to groups representing all disabilities including those with hidden disabilities,
- (2) consider the formation of a task and finish group at the appropriate time to support the development of a city accessibility street charter
- (3) ask Norfolk County Council's Environment, Development and Transport committee to review the same evidence presented to this meeting to inform their work going forward;
- (4) improve stakeholder representation earlier in the design process of new transport schemes,
- (5) ask relevant officers to ensure that any new signage be evaluated in terms of accessibility

- (6) ask the Norwich Highways Agency Committee to consider formally pausing the use of shared space schemes,
- (7) ensure the A Boards policy is easily accessible on the Norwich City Council website,
- (8) ask the relevant body to consider ways to more robustly enforce the engine switch off policy for buses within Norwich,
- (9) ask the relevant body to consider ways to increase awareness of ways to report misuse of blue badge parking,
- (10) ask the chair of the licensing committee to consider receiving a report on the sufficient supply of wheelchair accessible private hire vehicles, and
- (11) ask relevant officers to approach the Business Improvement District (BID) to explore ways of improving city centre retail access for those with mobility issues, such as more drop off points and a mini bus 'hopper' service.

3. Appointment of representative and substitute to the Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

RESOLVED to:

- (1) agree the protocol as agreed in 2016/17
- (2) appoint Councillor Brociek-Coulton as the representative and Councillor Grahame as the substitute for the Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

4. Appointment of representative and substitute to the Norfolk Countywide Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny sub panel

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Vaughan Thomas as the representative and Councillor Grahame as the substitute for the Norfolk Countywide Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny sub panel.

5. Quarterly performance report

The chair introduced the item and invited questions from members.

A member made reference to an enquiry she had put through the councillor enquiry system regarding the spend of £250,000 on the Waterloo Park Pavilion. The director of neighbourhoods said that he would investigate this enquiry within the system and would progress it.

In response to a member's question, the strategy manager said that the ease of getting timely access to debt advice was not a measure that was asked of commissioned services. With such a variety of delivery methods and types of

advice, it would be difficult to get a numeric sense of timely access but said he would ask the financial inclusion manager for some anecdotal evidence around this to circulate.

A member referred to measure FAC5 (the number of private sector homes where council activity improved energy efficiency) and asked whether the good performance shown this year would affect the setting of the target for the next year. The strategy manager said that targets were reviewed by the relevant head of service and the portfolio holder. Some years may be anomalous, for example, due to additional funding being received and this performance could not be repeated in subsequent years without such funding being available. He added that he would investigate why the target for this performance measure was so high and would circulate the information to members.

In response to a member's question, director of neighbourhoods said that there were many factors which informed perceptions of safety and it was difficult to make a link between cause and effect. He said that if members had particular concerns around local policing levels, this could be taken to the Norfolk Countywide Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny sub panel for consideration. A member followed this up with querying whether an open question could be asked on why people felt unsafe so that specific factors could be investigated. The director of neighbourhoods said that he believed that some commentary had been captured around this performance measure and he would look into this and circulate any information.

RESOLVED to:-

- (1) note the report,
- (2) ask the financial inclusion manager for some anecdotal evidence around timely access to debt advice,
- (3) ask the strategy manager to investigate why the performance target for measure FAC5 was so high; and
- (4) ask the director of neighbourhood services to circulate any commentary captured around why residents felt unsafe.

6. Setting of the scrutiny committee work programme for 2017-18

The chair introduced the item and referred to the list of potential work programme items on page 35 of the agenda papers. The member who had suggested each item as a possible topic for the scrutiny committee to review gave a brief overview of their suggested item.

Members discussed the merits of each topic and decided that all were timely pieces of work and should be added to the work programme for further investigation.

Following discussion it was:-

RESOLVED to ask the scrutiny liaison officer to add the following items to the scrutiny committee work programme 2017-18:

- (1) Pre-scrutiny of the proposed budget consultation (September)
- (2) The cooperative agenda in local government (September)
- (3) Health inequality in Norwich (October)
- (4) Access to justice (November)
- (5) Corporate plan and performance framework (December)
- (6) Review of the scope / the outcomes of the review of parks and play areas, depending on the timescales for this piece of work (December)
- (7) Pre-scrutiny of the proposed budget, Medium Term Financial Strategy and transformation programme (January)
- (8) Environmental strategy (January)
- (9) The private rented sector (February)
- (10) Review of council's enforcement service (March)
- (11) Annual review of the scrutiny committee (March)

CHAIR