

Report to Cabinet
07 February 2018
Report of Strategy manager
Subject Scrutiny Committee Recommendations

Item

12

Purpose

To consider the recommendations from the scrutiny committee since December 2017.

Recommendation

To consider the individual recommendations made by the scrutiny committee as outlined in the report, particularly those addressed to cabinet.

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet all the corporate priorities.

Financial implications

None

Ward/s: All wards

Cabinet member: Councillor Kendrick - resources

Contact officers

Adam Clark, strategy manager

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Background documents

None

Report

Background

1. The council's scrutiny committee is constituted of councillors who do not sit on cabinet. They are expected to review/scrutinise and oversee decisions made by cabinet. They can 'call in', for reconsideration, decisions made by cabinet or an officer which have not yet been implemented. The main functions of scrutiny are to hold cabinet to account by examining their proposals; evaluating policies, performance and progress; ensuring consultations, where necessary, have been carried out; and highlighting areas for improvement.

The committee makes recommendations for cabinet, the wider council and other stakeholders based on evidence on the issues scrutinised at their meetings.

The following is a summary of the topics the committee has considered over recent meetings with the recommendations that were made accordingly.

2. 14 December 2017

The committee considered the following reports:

- Draft corporate performance measures 2018-19
- Draft Equality Information report
- Emerging position on the 2018-19 budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy

After discussion on each item, these reports were noted by the committee.

3. 25 January 2018

Environmental Strategy progress update

An overview of the report was presented to the committee by the environmental strategy manager. Discussion focussed on the provision of electric charging points, the collection of air quality data and the equipment being used to do this and positive social investments.

It was RESOLVED to ask cabinet to consider:-

- (1) working with partners to such as the BID and the UEA to facilitate the delivery of electric vehicle charging points,
- (2) working with producers of air quality sensors and researchers to ensure that good quality field data around air quality is produced; and
- (3) investigating the possibility of a social value and environmental framework to purchase assets

Pre-scrutiny of the proposed budget 2018-19:

The item was introduced by the Chief Finance Officer who gave a short presentation to members summarising the information in the report. Members discussed the information in the report and asked the Chief Finance Officer questions on ear-marked reserves, carbon emissions, retention of business rates, investments in commercial property and borrowing and return rates.

RESOLVED to note the report on pre-scrutiny of the proposed budget 2018-19.

Access to justice recommendations

The committee considered the information that had been gathered from speakers at its meeting on 23 November 2017 with a view to formulating recommendations.

The speakers were:

Gareth Thomas, Director of UEA Law Clinic and trustee of the Eastern Legal Support Trust

Janka Rodziewicz, Strategy Manager at Norfolk Community Advice Network

Judi Lincoln, advice and volunteer manager, Norwich Community Legal Service

Sue Bailey, President of the Norfolk and Norwich law society

The strategy manager gave a summary of the meeting on 23 November and clarified the work the council was already doing around the 'Better off Norwich' digital platform and aligning funding with other partners.

RESOLVED to:-

- (1) Consider committing to a longer term for the council's funding for social welfare advice services in the city
- (2) Consider how to reduce burden on funded organisations by standardising application and monitoring process, and to explore this with other funders
- (3) Include a link to the Better Off Norwich platform in all relevant communications sent to customers and within their online council accounts to ensure they are accessing their entitlements
- (4) Work with digital hubs around Norwich to train volunteers on Universal Credit and the Better off Norwich platform

Integrated impact assessment



NORWICH
City Council

Report author to complete

Committee:	Cabinet
Committee date:	7 February 2018
Director / Head of service	Adam Clark
Report subject:	Scrutiny Committee Recommendations
Date assessed:	29 January 2018
Description:	A summary of scrutiny committee discussions and recommendations from December and January

	Impact			
Economic (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Finance (value for money)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other departments and services e.g. office facilities, customer contact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ICT services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Economic development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Financial inclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Access to justice item considers impact of council's funding for financial inclusion and social welfare services
Social (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Safeguarding children and adults	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<u>S17 crime and disorder act 1998</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human Rights Act 1998	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Health and well being	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual item on health inequalities considers council role in improving health and wellbeing of residents

	Impact			
Equality and diversity (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Relations between groups (cohesion)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Eliminating discrimination & harassment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Advancing equality of opportunity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Access to justice item considers impact of council's funding for social welfare services
Environmental (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental strategy item considers increase to electric vehicle charging points
Natural and built environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Waste minimisation & resource use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental strategy item considers improvements to recording air quality data
Sustainable procurement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Energy and climate change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

	Impact			
(Please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Risk management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Recommendations from impact assessment
Positive
Cabinet to give due consideration to recommendations made by the committee
Negative
Neutral
Issues