



Scrutiny Committee

16:30 to 18:00

16 September 2021

Present: Councillors Wright (chair), Fulton-McAllister (M) (vice-chair), Carlo, Giles, Manning, Stutely, Osborn, Thomas (Va) and Thomas (Vi)

Apologies: Councillors Driver and Galvin

1. Public questions/petitions

There were no public questions or petitions.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED to ratify the decisions made at the meeting held on 9 September regarding air pollution from wood burning stoves

4. Appointment of substitute member for the Norfolk Countywide Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny Sub-Panel

RESOLVED, having considered the report, to appoint Councillor Stutely as a substitute member on the NCCSPSSP.

5. Appointment of representative to Norfolk Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee

RESOLVED, having considered the report, to appoint Councillor Stutely as the council's representative to the NHOSC

6 Setting of the Scrutiny Committee work programme

The Executive director of community services introduced the report. She referred to the number of recurring topics that had already been allocated to the work programme including business plans, budget scrutiny and equality and diversity. There were slots available at the October, November and January meetings for

consideration of other topics. The list of topics suggested for consideration had been circulated to members.

Councillor Fulton-McAllister (Vice-Chair) reported that the Labour group were proposing that the following topics be allocated:-

A sustainable, inclusive Norwich economy following Covid-19
The emerging new social inclusion agenda following Covid-19
Review of the environmental strategy following Covid-19

Councillor Osborn reported that the Green group were proposing the following topics:-

Green Finance
Policy and procedures regarding tennis provision
Review of the environmental strategy following Covid-19

Councillor Osborn also said that his group were proposing that biodiversity was considered as part of the scrutiny of the NCSL Business Plan. The executive director of community services raised concern there would be insufficient time to consider this as an issue and that the shareholder panel would be monitoring the performance of the company. She also said that officers would need to consider whether there was sufficient resource at this time, due to the preparation of the MTFS and budget, to support consideration of the Green Finance topic.

Councillor Osborn expressed concern that the social inclusion and economic recovery topics were very wide issues and suggested that there needed to be a specific aspect of each selected to ensure that the committee's time was effectively used.

During discussion some members said that the recommendations of the committee should be more effective than they had been previously and that Norwich residents would expect the committee to focus on important issues affecting the city.

Councillor Thomas (Va) referred to the Covid recovery plan and suggested that there was a limit to what the Council could do in view of restricted funding.

The Chair confirmed that, in view of the topics proposed, the Emergency Planning Strategy and Support for Carers would not be included in the programme.

(The committee adjourned from 5.15 to 5.30pm)

RESOLVED to allocate the following scrutiny topics to meetings in the current civic year:-

October – Review of the environmental strategy following Covid-19

November – The emerging new social inclusion agenda following Covid-19

January – A sustainable, inclusive Norwich economy following Covid-19

The executive director of community services reminded members that it was very helpful for officers and external witnesses to receive comments and questions from members in advance of each meeting so that this can be incorporated into their presentations and reports to the Committee.

CHAIR