

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: 14 March 2016

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors:- Jake Vowles (Chairman)
David Jenney (Vice-Chairman)
Rosalie Beattie Janet Pinnock
Helen Howell Roger Powell
Sylvia Hughes Geoff Shacklock
Dorothy Maxwell

391. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 11 January 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

392. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Valerie Raven-Hill.

393. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

394. QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

There were no questions submitted under Council Procedure Rule 10.3.

The Chairman reminded Members of the need to comply with the procedure set out in Procedure Rule 10.3 within the Council's Constitution, particularly the deadline for the submission of questions.

395. UPDATE ON CALL-IN OF POLICY DECISIONS

The Committee was presented with an update on the activities of the Council's policy committees and sub-committees and decisions taken since the last meeting of the Scrutiny Committee. No decisions made by the Finance Sub-Committee, Personnel Sub-Committee, Policy & Resources Committee or Planning Policy Committee had been required to be called in.

RESOLVED:

That the update on the call-in of policy decisions be noted.

396. VARIATION OF AGENDA

With the consent of the Committee, the Chairman varied the order of the published Agenda.

397. PERFORMANCE REPORT – QUARTER 3 2015/16

The Corporate Support Manager presented a report detailing the performance of the Council in respect of agreed indicators and other statistics for the period October to December 2015.

Whilst the calendar of meetings for 2016/17 had recently been approved by Council, Members considered that meetings of the Scrutiny Committee should, in future, be more closely aligned to the end of the quarterly performance reporting period rather than the cycle of Council meetings.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

398. PRESENTATION BY “SERVICE SIX”

Claudia Slabon and Chris Thomas representing “Service Six”, which currently received an annual grant of £20,000 from ENC, provided the Committee with an outline of the work carried out by the organisation, the nature of the referrals received and case studies illustrating the counselling and support services provided for both adults and young people across East Northamptonshire.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked Claudia and Chris for their presentation.

399. THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR IN EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

The Community Partnerships Manager presented a report setting out the Council’s arrangements and relationships with the voluntary and community sector and the extent to which it operated across East Northamptonshire.

In response to Members’ questions, the Community Partnerships Manager confirmed that the grant awarded to Community Law Service was for the period to 31 March 2017. Citizens Advice had submitted a bid for this grant, but had not been successful. However, Citizens Advice could bid again should the Policy and Resources Committee approve grant aid beyond the current period, but negotiations regarding funding would not take place outside of the grant framework.

A grant of £7,500 was currently awarded to N Sport which partly funded activity and sport sessions and information gathered from the discussions held with N Sport would be shared with members of the Leisure Procurement Working Party.

RESOLVED: That

- i) the report be noted.

- ii) it be noted that following the presentation given by Service Six earlier in the meeting, presentations by the remaining two current providers of the three voluntary and community sector grants (Community Law Service and Serve/Voluntary Action Oundle) are scheduled for the next meeting of the Committee.

(Reason: To help inform the options this Council will need to consider for future working arrangements with the voluntary and community sector in East Northamptonshire)

400. PLANNING ENFORCEMENT SCRUTINY GROUP

The Vice-Chairman of the Committee provided a verbal update on the work being carried out by the Planning Enforcement Scrutiny Group, the terms of reference for which had been agreed by the Committee at its last meeting.

The Group had identified that planning enforcement activities were not currently reported to any Committee and the Group might make recommendations on this. Recommendations might also be made on the content of the enforcement policy itself.

Chairman