

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: 6 March 2017

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors:- Jake Vowles (Chairman)
David Jenney (Vice-Chairman)

Rosalie Beattie Roger Powell
Helen Howell Valarie Raven-Hill
Dorothy Maxwell Geoff Shacklock
Janet Pinnock

439. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman referred to Councillor Valerie Raven-Hill's resignation from the Council with effect from 13 March 2017. This would therefore be the final meeting that Cllr Raven-Hill would attend and the Committee wished her well for the future.

The Chairman informed the Committee that the final report of the Community Transport Scrutiny Group had been delayed to enable liaison to take place with the County Council which was currently undertaking a similar review. The final report would therefore be presented later in the year.

440. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 11 January 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

441. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Farrar and Sylvia Hughes.

442. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

443. QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

There were no questions submitted under Council Procedure Rule 10.3.

444. 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.

445. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORTING – QUARTER 3 2016/17

The Performance Officer presented a report detailing the performance of the Council in respect of agreed indicators and other statistics for Quarter 3 2016/17, including updated statistics for several indicators where information had been obtained since the publication of the report.

A number of issues were raised on the indicators which would be looked into after the meeting:

- *Number of enforcements actions relating to irresponsible dog behaviours:*

Feedback was requested on how the target of 36 had been set.

- *Amount of external funding received by community groups in the district after receiving advice:*

It was noted that a Heritage Lottery grant should have been included in Quarter 2 which would have moved the indicator to the "over performing" category. Members noted that at least one community group successful bid was not included and asked if there could be any improvements in the process for collecting feedback from groups which had been successful in obtaining grant funding following advice from ENC.

- *Amount of external funding received by ENC:*

Members asked if more could be done to encourage local voting on grant bids where a public vote was used to determine the outcome.

- *Staff turnover*

Members requested that the reasons for staff leaving ENC be coded and included in the statistics presented in the performance report.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

446. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

The Head of Customer and Community Services presented a report setting out the definition of anti-social behaviour contained in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and the powers and duties contained in the legislation, particularly those for District and Borough Councils.

A summary of anti-social behaviour recorded in the Districts within Northamptonshire for the year to 12 February 2017 was submitted. ENC was one of several agencies that received complaints about anti-social behaviour in East Northamptonshire, and the importance of strong working relationships between ENC and its partner organisations in dealing with anti-social behaviour was stressed.

A summary of how the Council was using its powers under the legislation was reported, particularly highlighting examples of where Community Protection Notices had been used, and of partnership working in tackling anti-social behaviour.

The draft Enforcement Strategy for anti-social behaviour would be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration in due course. A copy would be circulated to members of the Scrutiny Committee beforehand to enable input into the strategy.

It was noted that the Council aimed to work closely with Town and Parish Councils, as well as the Police, in tackling anti-social behaviour. The Committee considered that this should also include Ward Members and, where necessary, other local District Councillors.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

(Reason: To support the development and continuous improvement of this Council's approach to tackling anti-social behaviour).

447. REPORTING AND WRITE-OFF OF NNDR DEBTS

The Head of Customer and Community Services presented a verbal report outlining NNDR data for 2015/16 and the procedures for invoicing and issuing reminders and, where it was necessary, taking Court proceedings to recover NNDR debts.

It was noted that Internal Audit had provided significant assurance on the service following a recent review.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

448. WORK PLAN FOR 2017/18

The Executive Director circulated proposals for the Committee's Work Plan for 2017/18 and 2018/19.

RESOLVED:

That the following Work Plan be adopted.

Committee Date	Regular and Follow Up Activity	Review
17/18		
7 June	Q4 performance clinic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police and Crime Commissioner re Police Restructure and Coverage in East Northants Consultation on Paediatric cardiac unit coverage in the District
6 September	Q1 performance clinic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Report of Community Transport Review NCC Highways: review of effectiveness of advice for planning
6 December	Q2 performance Clinic Broadband Position Update	
7 March	Q3 performance Clinic EMAS Update	NNDR reporting and write-off update
2 May	Update Report on Planning Enforcement	
18/19		
June	Q4 performance Clinic	Welling being for residents review – to include First for Well Being and new Leisure Contact
September	Q1 performance clinic	Learning from Complaints
December	Q2 performance Clinic	
March	Q3 performance Clinic	
June		

Chairman