

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Work Programme Report

21st September 2016

Report of Chief Executive

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide Members with an update of the Committee's Work Programme.

This report is public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That Members consider the content of the Work Programme for the 2016/17 Municipal Year, as detailed in the Appendices to the report having regard to the suggested topics and other issues set out in this report.

1. Introduction

At the beginning of each Municipal Year suggestions are invited from members of the public, City Councillors and officers on ideas for this year's Work Programme(s).

2. Suggested Topics

Management Team has reviewed the topics that could be referred to the Committee. From the list attached Management Team recommends the Committee to consider scrutinising the following issues: -

- Heysham Gateway (submitted by Councillor Hartley and Management Team).
- Skills and Information (submitted by Councillor Caroline Jackson);
- Fly Grazing (submitted by Councillor Brayshaw);
- Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Commissioning (submitted by Management Team).

Further details on each of these issues will be provided to the Committee, including an explanation of those issues that have been recommended not to be taken forward. Additional topics with timescales are in Appendix A (Work Programme).

Members are reminded that there are 9 scheduled meetings of the Committee each municipal year. 2 of these meetings are required to consider specific issues, these are Community Safety and Older People's Issues. The Community Safety meeting is required by statute, the annual Older People's Issues was designated by the Committee.

Over the past municipal year the following topics have been considered: -

- Update on Better Care Together – Review of Local Health Services *
- Royal Lancaster Infirmary – Care Quality Commission Report
- Update on the Dementia Friendly Pilot
- Draft Energy Strategy *

- Five Year Housing Supply
- Community Safety *
- Update on the Portas Project
- Child Bus Fares
- CCTV *
- LGA Peer Review – Action Plan *
- Impacts of Storms Desmond and Eva *

* Indicates the topics that are included either on the Committee's Work Programme or are being considered by a Task Group.

2. Older People's Issues

Members will recall at the June meeting of the Committee, it was agreed to approach the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Older People to ascertain what topic would be appropriate for the Committee to consider at its annual meeting for Older Peoples issues.

The Cabinet Member has been consulted and has suggested that isolation and loneliness are still a major issue for people as they grow older. If the Committee wishes to consider these issues County Councillors representing this District and County Council Officers could be asked to attend and report on these issues.

Management Team has suggested that, with the limited number of meetings available, the Committee consider whether they might wish to make the meeting for Older Peoples issues an extra meeting, additional to the 9 scheduled meetings. It should also be noted that, at the time when the Committee made the decision to devote one of its meetings to Older Peoples issues every year, the Council did not have Cabinet Member with special responsibility for Older People. Now that the Council has a Cabinet member with the portfolio for older people, the Committee may wish to dispense with the special meeting approach and raise Older Peoples issues, such as isolation and loneliness, when the Cabinet Member for Older People attends Overview and Scrutiny to discuss her portfolio.

3. Updates on other Work Programme Items

Property Strategy

The Strategy has been delayed to date due to limitations on resources to undertake this work. However, the Committee may wish to receive a discussion report on the factors which the Council would consider important when making decisions about property and a strategic review of assets. This discussion paper will help inform the formulation of the Property Strategy.

Leader of the Council

As agreed at the last Committee meeting, the Leader of the Council was invited to attend the September meeting. Unfortunately, the Leader has another commitment that evening but has offered to attend the October meeting.

Crime and Disorder Meeting

As Members will be aware each year the Committee is required to meet to discuss and consider crime and disorder issues. At its meeting held on 8th June the Committee agreed that an overview of the work of the Community Safety Partnership be provided at the November 2016 Community Safety meeting.

Since that meeting the City Council has been contacted by Lancashire Police. The Police have asked if the newly appointed Chief Inspector could attend the meeting. As well as attending the meeting this will assist with creating a relationship with members.

The Committee may feel it appropriate to also invite the Cabinet member with the portfolio for community safety and disorder, together with all other members of Council.

Peer Review

Management Team has requested that the update be provided at the February meeting of the Committee.

Informal Task Groups

An item has been placed on the Agenda so that updates can be provided.

The Committee's Work Programme is appended to this report, at Appendix A.

4. Referral from Council: Review of Measures taken to counter Racism, Xenophobia, and Hate Crime

At the Council meeting on 13th July, a Motion relating to a diverse and tolerant society was considered and the Council made the following decisions. Resolution (3), in bold type, is for this committee to consider:-

- (1) We are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. Racism, xenophobia and hate crimes of any description have no place in our country. We at Lancaster City Council condemn racism, xenophobia and hate crimes unequivocally. We will not allow such behaviour to become acceptable. We will work with other bodies, Community Safety Partnership, Communities together, Lancashire county council, Town and Parish councils to challenge such behaviour and prevent such crimes. Lancaster City council wishes to assure all of the Districts residents and visitors that they are valued members of our society.
- (2) That the statement above is displayed on the city council website, that it also directs residents to www.istreetwatch.co.uk for anonymous reporting of hate crime and that a press release is issued to publicise the motion.
- (3) That Council recommends the Overview and Scrutiny Committee review the current local and city council measures taken to counter racism, xenophobia, and hate crime and report back to Full Council as soon as practicable.**
- (4) That all councillors consider increasing their involvement with, and support for, those organisations which strengthen communities and increase tolerance and respect between peoples from different countries, cultures and faiths.

The officer briefing note provided for Full Council with the motion is attached at Appendix B for the Committee's information.

5. Lancashire County Council's Pre-Scrutiny Process

Appended to this report (Appendix C) are details of the County Council's Pre-Scrutiny processes. The Committee is asked to consider the information and advise if and how Members wish to proceed with this matter.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

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