

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 7 April 2014

PRESENT: Councillor Jamie Lane (Chair); Councillors Tony Ansell, Phil Larratt, Lee Mason, Nilesh Ramesh Parekh, Suresh Patel, Winston Strachan and Sivaramen Subbarayan

Councillor Mike Hallam – Cabinet Member for Environment
Councillor Brandon Eldred – Cabinet Member for Community Engagement
Julie Seddon – Director of Customers and Communities
Tracy Tiff – Scrutiny Officer
Nicola Brindley – Democratic Services Officer

1. APOLOGIES

There were none.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 28th January 2014 and 10th February 2014 were agreed as a true record.

3. DEPUTATIONS/PUBLIC ADDRESSES

There were none.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING)

Councillor Suresh Patel declared an interest in Item 11 as a Northamptonshire County Council Cabinet Member for Adult Care Services.

5. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY

Councillor Mike Hallam addressed the Committee and provided a verbal update on the following points:-

Missed Bins

He confirmed that in recent months there had been a significant increase in performance and they were now meeting the targets.

Councillors Lee Mason and Suresh Patel reported that they had noted an improvement in their wards.

Graffiti

Councillor Mike Hallam confirmed that there had been a new approach taken to tackle this problem where an officer takes the lead and an Action Plan is then taken forward with the relevant parties. This method had been successful in the Town Centre and they would extend it to include the Wellingborough and Kettering Roads. A similar action plan would be set up in Exeter Place.

In response to a question, Councillor Mike Hallam confirmed that there would not be a wall set up in Abington Park where people would be allowed to graffiti and would like a zero

tolerance approach.

Councillor Phil Larratt requested the graffiti be removed at the electricity sub station near Sainsburys. This was noted.

Recycling

Recycling rates had stayed the same although the food recycling had dropped over the past 12 months. This was due to people wasting less food or doing more home composting. There was also less packaging from manufacturers. Comparable to other Local Authorities Northampton was 44.34%, Cambridgeshire was 42.85% and Leicestershire was 41.5%.

Councillor Phil Larratt confirmed that as the Chairman of Development and Control at Northamptonshire County Council waste and recycling was restricted in areas and wanted to change planning conditions to draw in a wider area.

Councillor Mike Hallam reported that there had been a 10% increase in recycling and 9000 recycle containers had been issued which was a positive step forward and final figures would be available in June.

Councillor Jamie Lane thanked Councillor Mike Hallam for his quick responses.

Agreed: That the report be noted.

6. PROGRESS REPORT - RAISING SPONSORSHIP TO OFFSET COST OF NBC EVENTS AND CONDITIONS

Councillor Brandon Eldred addressed the Committee and presented the report. He confirmed that they had met all of the targets and congratulated the team for their hard work over the last 12 months.

It was suggested that the Committee would not monitor raising sponsorship in the immediate future but would consider re-visiting it during the budget consultation period.

AGREED: That the report be noted.

7. MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACCEPTED RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REPORTS:

7.A COMMUNITY CENTRES

Councillor Brandon Eldred confirmed that all of the Community Centres had been handed over to the relevant groups and would visit the current community groups to continue to work closely with them. He congratulated the Community groups who had taken this on.

AGREED: That the report be noted and that monitoring is complete on this Scrutiny report.

7.B COMMISSIONING FRAMEWORK FOR THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR

Councillor Brandon Eldred confirmed that the small grants fund had been operating well and had an application for CEFAP. Over the last 12 months all of the people who had applied for a small grants had met the targets. In response to a question, he confirmed that any money which had been underspent would be carried forward.

Councillor Lee Mason commented that the small grants were extremely valuable to organisations.

Agreed: That the report be noted and that monitoring is complete on this Scrutiny report.

8. CABINET'S RESPONSE TO THE FOLLOWING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REPORTS

8.A SERIOUS ACQUISITIVE CRIME, VIOLENT CRIME AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Councillor Jamie Lane reviewed Cabinet's responses and confirmed that all of the responses were commented on and accepted.

Councillor Lee Mason noted that the summary of duties had not been circulated to all Councillors and requested the information.

Agreed:

- 1. That the report be noted and that the summary of duties of the Neighbourhood Wardens be circulated to all Councillors.**
- 2. That the Committee monitors the implementation of the accepted recommendations contained within this report in six months' time.**

8.B INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS AND S106 AGREEMENTS

Councillor Jamie Lane confirmed that Cabinet had noted their report and a response would be made at a future meeting.

Agreed:

- 1. That the report be noted.**
- 2. That the Committee monitors the implementation of the accepted recommendations contained within this report in six months' time.**

8.C IMPROVING THE TOWN'S PARKS

Councillor Jamie Lane confirmed that they had received a good response from Cabinet and all of the recommendations had been agreed. He noted that this was a good example of how Scrutiny and Cabinet could work together for a better town.

Agreed:

- 1. That the report be noted.**
- 2. That the Committee monitors the implementation of the accepted recommendations contained within this report in six months' time.**

9. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2014/2015

Councillor Jamie Lane confirmed that the suggested reviews were Interpersonal Violence, Keep Northampton Tidy and Poverty.

The Committee membership was as follows:-

Interpersonal Violence -Councillor Sivaramen Subbarayan Chair

Keep Northampton Tidy – Councillors Tony Ansell (Chair), Sivaramen Subbarayan (Deputy Chair), Mick Ford, Phil Larratt and Jamie Lane

Poverty in the town – Suggested Chair Councillor Elizabeth Gowen, Lee Mason

An invite would be sent out to all Councillors to request what panels they would like to go on.

10. SCRUTINY PANELS

10.A SCRUTINY PANEL 1 - IMPACT OF THE WELFARE REFORM ACT

The Briefing Note was presented to the Committee and its contents noted.

Agreed: That the report be noted.

10.B SCRUTINY PANEL 2 - MANAGEMENT AND REGULATION OF PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING (INCLUDING HIMOS)

The Briefing Note was presented to the Committee and its contents noted. Councillor Phil Larratt expressed a concern that there were people in Northampton dwelling in their garages or sheds.

Councillor Jamie Lane confirmed that this would be investigated further.

Agreed: That the report be noted.

11. REPORT BACK FROM NBC'S REPRESENTATIVE TO NCC'S HEALTH, ADULT CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Councillor Matt Lynch was our representative on the NCC's Health, Adult Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and Councillor Lee Mason was elected as a Deputy.

Agreed:

- 1. That the update be noted**
- 2. That Councillor Mason be nominated as Deputy representative to NCC's Health and Adult Care Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.**

12. POTENTIAL FUTURE PRE DECISION SCRUTINY.

There were none.

13. URGENT ITEMS

There were none.

The meeting concluded at 18.45