

Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission

17th July 2017



Report of: Service Director, Legal and Democratic Services

Title: Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission - Annual Business Report

Ward: N/A

Officer Presenting Report: Romyne de Fonseca, Policy Advisor

Contact Telephone Number: 0117 922 2270

Recommendations

- To elect a Vice Chair for the 2017-18 year.**
- To note the Commission's Terms of Reference.**
- To confirm the additional meeting date set for 2017/18.**

Summary

This report requests that the Commission elects a Vice Chair and notes the Terms of Reference and the proposed date of the next meeting.

The report also requests that the Commission notes the topics that were selected as priorities for scrutiny by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board workshop on 26th June 2017.

The significant issues in the report are:

The Proposal at paragraphs 4 and 5.



Policy

1.

Consultation

2. N/A

Context

3. At its meeting on 23rd May 2017 Full Council established this Commission with the following Terms of Reference, however please note that these are to be confirmed subject to review by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

Overview

The role of the Commission is the overview and scrutiny of matters relating to the Neighbourhoods Directorate including environment and leisure, housing delivery, crime and disorder (including the statutory scrutiny function), recycling, waste and environmental issues, neighbourhoods, integrated customer services and public health.

Functions

1. To ensure that overview and scrutiny directly responds to corporate and public priorities, is used to drive service improvement, provides a focus for policy development and engages members of the public, key stakeholders and partner agencies.
2. To develop an annual work programme within the total of ten meetings allocated to the Commission which concentrates on limited areas for in depth review (including the appointment of time limited task and finish groups to facilitate this e.g. Select Committees, Working Groups, Inquiry Days) using the following framework.
 - (a) Scrutiny of corporate plans and other major plan priorities with particular reference to those areas where targets are not being met or progress is slow;
 - (b) Input to significant policy developments or service reviews;
 - (c) Review and scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken in connection with the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the Mayor/Executive, functions which are not the responsibility of the Executive, and functions which are the responsibility of any other bodies the council is authorised to scrutinise.
3. To make reports and recommendations to Full Council, the Mayor/Executive and/or any other body on matters within their remit and on matters which affect the authority's area or the inhabitants of that area and to monitor the response, implementation and impact of recommendations.
4. To work in collaboration with the Mayor/relevant Executive Member and receive updates from that member on key policy developments, decisions taken or to be taken and progress against corporate priorities.

5. To report on a quarterly basis to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on progress against the work programme and on any recommendations it makes.

Proposal

4. The Commission is asked to:

- **Elect a Vice Chair for the 2017-18 year**
- **Note its Terms of Reference as agreed by Full Council**
- **Confirm the date of the next meeting as 10.00-1.00pm on 29th September 2017**

5. The Commission is also asked to note the following topics that were selected as priorities for Scrutiny at the OSMB workshop on 26th June 2017. The next steps are for these to be scoped out to enable decisions to be made as to methodology, timescale and resource allocation.

- Parks (becoming cost neutral) – Lead by Cllr Charlie Bolton, Jude English and Gill Kirk
- Council Commissioning and Contracts (to include Social Value) – Lead by Cllrs Graham Morris, Don Alexander, Tom Brooke.
- Reducing Demand on Social Services (adults & children’s) - lead by Cllr Brenda Massey and Gill Kirk.
- Council Assets (including strategy, community asset transfer and an acknowledged link to libraries and children centres) – Lead by Cllrs Jude English, Anthony Negus and Brenda Massey, Graham Morris
- Cribbs Patchway New Neighbourhood - lead by Cllrs Tom Brooke, Brenda Massey and Geoff Gollop
- Air Quality & Pollution – Lead by Cllrs Gill Kirk, Charlie Bolton and Tom Brooke, Jude English
- Children’s Centres – lead by Cllrs Anna Keen and Brenda Massey
- Libraries – lead by Cllrs Anthony Negus, Brenda Massey, Geoff Gollop and Charlie Bolton
- Tower Block Fire Safety – lead by Cllr Charlie Bolton
- MTFP – Lead by Cllr Geoff Gollop, Graham Morris and Donald Alexander
- Youth Council – Cllrs Anna Keen and Tom Brooke to speak to Youth Council and establish if and how Scrutiny can support them

Other Options Considered

6. None.

Risk Assessment

7. Not applicable

Public Sector Equality Duties

8. Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following “protected characteristics”: age,

disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:

- i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
- ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to --
 - remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
 - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);
 - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- iii) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
 - tackle prejudice; and
 - promote understanding.

None at this stage

Legal and Resource Implications

Legal

None

Financial

None at this stage

Land

Not applicable.

Personnel

Not applicable.

Appendices:

None

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers: Full Council, 23rd May 2017

