

Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission 7 July 2016



Report of: Interim Service Director, Legal & Democratic Services

Title: Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission Annual Business Report 2016/17.

Ward: N/A

Officer Presenting Report: Jeremy Livitt

Contact Telephone Number: 0117 92 23758

Recommendations

1. To note the Board's Terms of Reference;
2. To confirm the meeting dates for the Board in 2016/17.

The significant issues in the report are:

As set out in text boxes below.

Policy

1. N/A

Consultation

2. Internal
N/A
3. External
N/A

Context

4. N/A

Proposal

5. N/A

Other Options Considered

6. N/A

Risk Assessment

7. N/A

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.

Context and Proposal

Terms of Reference of the commission

At its meeting on 31 May, 2016 Full Council established this commission with the following terms of reference:

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, 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 per year 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 scrutinize 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.

The Commission is asked to note its terms of reference as agreed by Full Council (recommendation 1)

Dates and times of meetings.

Dates for meetings in 2016/17 are recommended as follows:

- 6 pm to 9 pm on Monday 12th September 2016
- 6 pm to 9 pm on Monday 17th October 2016
- 10 am to 1 pm on Friday 25th November 2016
- 6 pm to 9 pm on Monday 19th December 2016
- 2 pm to 5 pm on Thursday 26th January 2017
- 10 am to 1 pm on Friday 24th February 2017
- 10 am to 1 pm on Friday 31st March 2017
- 10 am to 1 pm on Monday 24th April 2017

The commission to confirm its meeting dates in 2016/17 (Recommendation 2)

Legal and Resource Implications

Not applicable.

Appendices:

None

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

None.