

Contact Officer: Penny Bunker

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Monday 15th April 2019

Present: Councillor Julie Stewart-Turner (Chair)
Councillor Elizabeth Smaje

In attendance: Tom Ghee

Observers: Councillor Martyn Bolt

Apologies: Councillor Gulfam Asif
Councillor Cahal Burke
Councillor Rob Walker

58 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 4 March 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

59 Interests

No interests were declared.

60 Admission of the Public

It was agreed that all agenda items would be considered in public session.

61 Kirklees Local Flood Risk Management Strategy - Annual Review of Progress against the Action Plan

The Committee considered the annual update on progress made against the Flood Risk Management Strategy action plan. Tom Ghee, Flood Manager presented the report. It was noted that many of the initial actions identified in the 2013 – 18 strategy had been embedded and in developing a revised strategy it was proposed that the focus be on a smaller number of priority actions. The Committee considered the proposed 11 areas of focus and the new progress and implementation plan.

In commenting on the proposals, the Committee suggested it was appropriate to inform local ward councillors of progress within their wards. This helped Councillors in responding to ward enquiries. The committee also explored the progress in community engagement work and Mr Ghee explained that work in Holme Valley South and Newsome wards had led to the development of a format for community engagement, including an information leaflet. A three year plan had been developed to undertake engagement in high flood risk areas across the Kirklees district. The committee discussed the preventative measures that householders in high risk areas were advised to consider.

The committee asked about the funding opportunities for work to address surface water flood risk. Mr Ghee indicated there was the possibility to bid for funding to

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address smaller scale issues and the Council was working with consultants to frame a bid which it hoped to submit during 2019.

Councillor Bolt thanked Mr Ghee and the Flood Management Team for the measures that had been put in place in recent years to help to address some flood risk concerns. He asked about proposals to address flooding in the Holme and Colne rivers. In response it was noted that the work being undertaken by the National Trust above Marsden would help to retain water at source. The long term plan was to reduce the run off from upland areas into rivers. Councillor Bolt emphasised the need to link up across boundaries to ensure that measures joined up and actions in one area did not adversely affect another area downstream. The Scrutiny Committee agreed to recommend that the Mirfield area become one of the areas of focus for the Flood Management Team work programme.

The committee asked how the Flood Risk Plan would be tested. It was noted that recent heavy rain had already tested the approach and there learning points had been identified. A meeting had been set up with Emergency Planning to review and adjust the plan.

The committee asked about the staff resources to be able to deliver the priority actions. It was noted that additional capacity had been put into the team over the summer period and a principle graduate engineer was being recruited. Mr Ghee felt that the 3 year targets were realistic.

The committee thanked Mr Ghee and his team for the progress that had been made in delivering the previous strategy within limited resources. The committee supported the priorities that had been identified within the revised strategy and action plan.

RESOLVED -

- (1) The Committee thanked Mr Ghee for attending and the support he has provided to Scrutiny work over recent years.
- (2) The Committee noted the revised reporting format and the focus on a smaller set of actions.
- (3) The Committee welcomed the ongoing work in communities and the work with local ward councillors.
- (4) That as part of work with local councillors, consideration is given to the flood risk issues in the Mirfield area.

62 Scrutiny Lead Member End of Year Reports

The committee considered the final reports for the 2018/19 municipal year from the Scrutiny Panel Lead Members.

Councillor Smaje highlighted the ongoing work of the Health and Adult Social Care Panel in respect of the Ambulatory Care Unit at Dewsbury. A joint visit to

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Pinderfields hospital would take place in the new year with Wakefield Councillors, to look at the Ambulatory Care Unit and other supporting services.

In respect of highlights for the year, work on the developing Adult Care Offer was identified. In addition the Panel had explored an issue raised by a member of the public concerning support to children in Kirklees with Foetal Alcohol Syndrome and Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. The outcome was the agreement to establish a regional protocol and diagnostic pathway for this condition.

In respect of the Children's Scrutiny Panel a recent update from West Yorkshire Police, Children's Services and Licensing outlined how approaches to safeguarding had been refined to understand and respond to young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their family. Members were reassured by the progress in joint working and the Panel agreed to continue to be informed regarding CSE, safeguarding and licensing work.

Councillor Walker had highlighted the work of the Economy and Neighbourhoods Panel in looking at the development of a number of interlinked strategies, including the Economic Strategy, the Housing Strategy and the Employment and Skills Plan.

The Corporate Panel had made significant progress in the scrutiny of the Council's financial monitoring. Unfortunately an LGA workshop on commercialisation had been postponed until the new municipal year. Work in looking at strands of the People Strategy would continue in the new municipal year.

The Chair of Scrutiny reported on the outcomes of a co-optee recruitment exercise and recent discussions to try and secure diocesan representation on the Children's Scrutiny Panel in the new municipal year. Councillor Stewart Turner also highlighted the opportunity for Scrutiny to be involved in the new work stream for supporting communities.

In closing the discussion, Councillor Smaje thanked Councillor Stewart Turner for her considerable contribution to the work of Scrutiny throughout her time as a councillor. She wished Councillor Stewart Turner every success with her future plans as she stepped down from serving as a councillor.

RESOLVED -

- (1) The Committee noted the Lead Member End of Year reports.
- (2) That thanks be placed on record for the work of Cllr Julie Stewart Turner in her role as Chair of Scrutiny. Cllr Stewart Turner was also wished every success for the future as she stepped down from serving as a Councillor.

63 Date of next meeting 2019/20 municipal year

The committee noted that the first meeting of the Committee in the new municipal year had been scheduled for Monday 10 June 2019 at 10.00am.