

Contact Officer: Penny Bunker

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Monday 17th June 2019

Present: Councillor Elizabeth Smaje (Chair)
Councillor Harpreet Uppal

Observers: Councillor Andrew Marchington

Apologies: Councillor Habiban Zaman
Councillor Andrew Cooper

3 Membership of Committee

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Cooper and Zaman.

4 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 15 April 2019 were approved as a correct record.

5 Interests

No interests were declared.

6 Admission of the Public

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

7 Allocation of Scrutiny Co-optees 2019/20

This Committee received a report which sought approval for the proposed allocation of Scrutiny Co-optees for the 2019/20 municipal year.

RESOLVED -

- (1) The allocation of co-optees, as set out in section 2.1 of the report, be approved; and
- (2) That Fatima Shah-Khan, Kimberley Stock, Mark Mercer and Sharron Taylor be thanked for their commitment and contribution to the work of Scrutiny.

8 Re establishment of Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel

The Committee received a report which sought agreement for the re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel into Elective Home Education.

It was noted that there was a small amount of outstanding evidence gathering work to be completed before the Panel could finalise its findings and it was requested that this work be completed within the next four months.

RESOLVED -

- (1) That the Elective Home Education Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel be reappointed to complete its work in the 2019/20 municipal year;

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- (2) The work of the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel be finalised by October 2019; and
- (3) That the previous membership continues, where possible, with the addition of the new Lead Member for the Children's Scrutiny Panel.

9 The Scrutiny Work Programme 2019/20

The Scrutiny Management Committee considered an initial draft of the Scrutiny Work Programme for the 2019/20 municipal year. It was noted that following discussions at the Committee, Lead Members would take the potential list of items into panels for further consideration.

The Committee received performance information for Quarter 3 and 4 and the Forward Plan of Key Decisions to inform discussion and Jacqui Gedman, Chief Executive and Rachel Spencer-Henshall, Strategic Director Corporate Strategy, Commissioning were in attendance to assist the Committee in their deliberations and respond to questions in relation to the aforementioned documentation.

The key areas of the Panel's discussion and responses to questions are summarised below:-

It was requested that further information be included as to the reporting of potential risk to outcomes, as well as deadlines and milestones.

It was intended that the performance framework would support scrutiny in providing diverse area headlines in order to identify specific areas of interest. It was agreed that moving forward, performance reports would be circulated to Lead Members as soon as they were available.

In response to comments from the Committee as to the lack of future key decisions included within the Forward Plan, it was noted that a new Cabinet was in place and priorities were being revisited and the Forward Plan would be populated accordingly. It was agreed that this information would be circulated to Lead Members on completion.

Following a bid as part of a national initiative, Kirklees had become a National Trailblazer site for Mental Health Support teams in schools. To ensure success, it was important to take a holistic view and incorporate work into the whole healthy child programme, improving access to CAMHS and also working with school professionals to recognise emotional health and wellbeing. Impact would be monitored against the national criteria and locally through the Thriving Kirklees contract with Locala.

With regards to training professionals in schools, it was important to make every pupil contact count, with staff trained to recognise symptoms and know where to seek support.

£180k had been secured from the Home Office to further develop prevention and early intervention work to reduce gang related violence in Kirklees. The Safeguarding Boards and Communities Board were looking at how best to ensure maximum benefit for delivering the Gang Strategy and it was intended to build on the success of the recent Youth Summit and maximise partnership work

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to tackle gang violence. Place based working and the utilisation of the knowledge of local politicians and people was also intrinsic to this.

The Masterplan for Huddersfield and Dewsbury was a Council priority and stakeholder engagement was important to shape this. Whilst investment was in place, part of the challenge was in relation to how people felt about the town centre, with ongoing dialogue as to why people didn't feel safe.

With regards to educational attainment, it was noted that a new Director for Children's Services was in post and achieving the best possible outcomes for children was a key focus.

Intelligence was currently being gathered to determine whether modern day slavery was a significant issue for the authority. If it was shown that this was the case, then activity would be diverted accordingly.

With regards to Kirklees Direct response times, it was acknowledged that capacity had previously been budget driven rather than demand led. A watching brief was in place and resources would be allocated if required. It was suggested that this may be an issue that the Corporate Scrutiny Panel would wish to consider as part of their work programme.

The significant work being undertaken to improve health and wellbeing in the workplace was outlined and it was anticipated that levels of absence would continue to fall as a result of this.

The Chief Executive highlighted three key areas for scrutiny consideration, namely (i) the Waste Strategy; (ii) placements; and (iii) high needs. Opportunities for cross panel scrutiny were highlighted and it was agreed to take these issues forward to the Panels for consideration.

The Management Committee considered the draft programmes set out by the individual Scrutiny Panels and Lead Members commented on the potential issues.

It was noted that the Waste Strategy would be a key area for consideration for the Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel. The Chair requested that the work programme item be re-titled from Waste Minimisation to Waste Strategy, so that it was clear as to the nature of the work. Councillor Uppal also reported that she had met with the Strategic Director, Economy and Infrastructure, and intended to meet with the Service Director for Housing to consider potential items in relation to homelessness and the governance of KNH.

The value of pre-decision scrutiny was emphasised and it was suggested that Youth Services and building on the work of the recent Youth Summit would be a valuable area for consideration.

The following was agreed in relation to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee's work programme:-

Scrutiny of Crime and Disorder – to include an update as to Modern Day Slavery;

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Regional Working Update – the Committee to be provided with information as to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and LEP to ensure a full understanding of the implications of regional working;

Details as to major consultations being undertaken by the Council, to be brought to the Committee; and

The Leader of the Council to be invited to a future meeting to outline priorities for the year ahead.

RESOLVED -

- (1) The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee work programme to be updated as discussed;
- (2) Quarterly performance reports and supporting documentation to be circulated to Lead Members as soon as available;
- (3) The updated Forward Plan of Key Decisions to be circulated to Lead Members;
- (4) The draft work programme be noted and forwarded for consideration as part of scrutiny panel work programme discussions; and
- (5) That following Panel consideration the proposed work programmes be submitted to OSMC for approval.

- 10 Draft Corporate Plan 2019/20**
The Scrutiny Management Committee considered the draft of the proposed Kirklees Corporate Plan for 2019/20 which was due to be considered by Cabinet on 18 June 2019 and Council on 17 July 2019.

Jacqui Gedman, Chief Executive and Rachel Spencer-Henshall, Strategic Director Corporate Strategy, Commissioning were in attendance for this item.

During discussion, the following points were noted:-

Inclusive growth was a priority and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Inclusive Growth Panel was chaired by the Council Leader during 2018/19.

A mapping exercise had been completed to cross check continuity across the previous Plan and the refreshed version. This comprehensive document would be available to Members at Council in July.

CSE was encompassed within safeguarding responsibilities and focused on exploitation more broadly and improving outcomes for children.

It was intended that more specific measures of success would be outlined in the next iteration of the Plan.

Further to a question from a member of the Committee, it was agreed that the wording on page 18 regarding the delivery of a recycling education programme and the checking bins across Kirklees would be reviewed. Members were

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informed that an education programme had been undertaken and a bin would only be removed after previous communications had failed.

It was noted that the aforementioned supporting document would give more of a flavour as to the valuable role played by libraries in the community, in addition to statistical information as to the number of books borrowed etc.

It was requested that reference to the contribution that carers made to Services be acknowledged within the Plan. Officers agreed to take away for consideration.

RESOLVED - The Committee requested that:-

- a. The wording at Page 18, Point 1 (Clean and Green) be clarified;
- b. The wider contribution of libraries to the community to be referenced within the Plan and/or supporting documentation; and
- c. The contribution made by carers to be acknowledged within the Plan.

11 Scrutiny Communications

The Management Committee considered the approach to communication of scrutiny activity in 2019/20.

It was agreed that press releases would go through the Scrutiny Chair and that a Scrutiny Bulletin would be issued at 3 points during the municipal year.

With regards to discussion at Council, it was noted that the next opportunity would be September 2019.

RESOLVED -

- (1) That the update on proposals for Scrutiny communications be noted;
- (2) The Chair of Scrutiny and Lead Members to provide a Scrutiny update at the September meeting of Council.

12 Schedule of Meetings for the 2019/20 municipal year

RESOLVED - That meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee be held on the following dates:

22 July 2019
9 September 2019
4 November 2019
13 January 2020
9 March 2020
6 April 2020 (TBC)

The meeting start time of 10.00am to be confirmed as soon as possible.