

PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
23RD FEBRUARY 2010

PRESENT: The Chair (Councillor Jukes)
The Vice-chair (Councillor Burr)
Councillors Duffy, Hodgson, M. Hunt, K. Jones,
S. Jones, Newton, Ranson, Stork and Walker

APOLOGIES: Councillors Campbell, Goss and Radford

The Acting Director of Programmes and Resources attended as Lead Director for the Committee.

31. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 24th November 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and signed.

32. DISCLOSURES OF PERSONAL INTEREST

Councillors K. Jones and Stork declared interests as members of the Charnwood Neighbourhood Housing Board in respect of any discussion relating to that organisation.

Councillor Stork also referred to an interest in respect of any discussion of LAA Indicator NI 188.

33. DECLARATIONS – THE PARTY WHIP

No declarations of the existence of the Party Whip were made.

34. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

A quarterly report of the Director of Governance and Procurement was submitted providing performance information for the third quarter of 2009/10 (item 5 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Head of Performance and Audit attended the meeting to assist the Committee.

The Director of Development, the Director of Housing and Health and the Director of Leisure and Environment also attended to assist the Committee in respect of Indicators reported as Red (significantly off-target).

RESOLVED

- I. that the report be noted;

2. that the Head of Environmental Health be asked to submit a report to the next meeting of the Committee (18th May 2010) providing further information in respect of Indicator NI 184, in particular the approach taken to those establishments which are not compliant and publicity for those which are.

Reasons

1. The information in the report is necessary to the Committee's role of monitoring the Council's performance in delivering the Council's objectives.
2. This Indicator relates to food establishments in the area which are broadly compliant with food hygiene law. The Committee wished to receive more information on this matter to ensure a robust and proactive approach was being taken. Other authorities had similar targets. It was recognised that increasing the target for this Indicator would involve time which might be better spent monitoring and improving the position. Brief reference was made at this meeting to the "Scores on the Doors" scheme which provided information for the public on the extent to which establishments met food hygiene requirements.

35. FLY TIPPING AND GRAFFITI - PERFORMANCE

A report of the Director of Leisure and Environment was submitted outlining the position with fly tipping and graffiti in Charnwood, the Council's performance in those respects and the actions being taken to improve that (item 6 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Director of Leisure and Environment and the Head of Environmental Services attended to assist the Committee.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Reason

Having considered the information, the Committee had no areas of concern or actions that it wished to include as part of its decision.

36. FREE OF CHARGE SWIMMING FOR UNDER 16 AND OVER 60 YEAR OLDS - IMPACT

A report of Director of Leisure and Environment was submitted providing an update on the uptake of free swimming for under 16 and over 60 year olds (item 7 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Director of Leisure and Environment and the Head of Leisure Services attended to assist the Committee.

RESOLVED

1. that the report be noted;
2. that the issue “Non-contact Technology be added to the Committee’s work programme for consideration (brief explanation of what it involves and examples of how it might usefully be employed by the Council in the future).

Reason

1. Having considered the information, the Committee had no areas of concern or actions that it wished to include as part of its decision.
2. In considering the Free Swimming scheme and the collection of data in that respect, reference was made to Non-contact Technology and how that might be of use for such schemes and others, for example Concessionary Travel. The Committee considered it would be useful to learn more about the technology and opportunities in this area and a report providing brief information on the matter would assist that.

37. HUMAN RESOURCES ISSUES

A quarterly report of the Interim Chief Executive was submitted providing information on a number of Human Resources issues for the period October-December 2009 (item 8 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Head of Human Resources attended the meeting to assist the Committee.

The Head of Human Resources agreed to confirm to members of the Committee as soon as possible after this meeting the number of Street Wardens posts on the Council’s establishment (following concern that the report stated that three such posts were currently vacant).

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Reasons

The information in the report is useful to the Committee’s role of monitoring the Council’s performance. Having considered the report, the Committee had no areas of concern or actions that it wished to include as part of its decision.

38. REVENUE MONITORING

A report of the Interim Chief Executive was submitted setting out the position with the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account at end December 2009 (item 9 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Head of Financial Services attended to assist the Committee.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Reason

Having considered the information, the Committee had no areas of concern or actions that it wished to include as part of its decision.

39. CAPITAL MONITORING

A report of the Interim Chief Executive which had been submitted to Cabinet on 17th December 2009 requesting changes to the 2009/10 to 2011/12 Capital Plan and its financing and including changes up to 24th November 2009 was submitted (item 10 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Head of Financial Services attended to assist the Committee.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Reason

Having considered the information, the Committee had no areas of concern or actions that it wished to include as part of its decision.

40. ICS REVIEW - POSITION

The Committee had asked that a report on the position with this review be submitted to this meeting, if the matter had not been concluded by Cabinet in December 2009. The Cabinet had not done so, therefore, the Acting Director of Programmes and Resources reported verbally on the position. He stated that a consultation document would be given to members of ICS staff within the next two days and that the matter would be considered by Cabinet in March 2010.

RESOLVED that the position be noted.

Reason

Having considered the position reported by the Acting Director of Programmes and Resources, the Committee had no areas of concern or actions that it wished to include as part of its decision.

41. WORK PROGRAMME

A report of the Acting Director of Programmes and Resources was submitted to assist the Committee in considering its work programme for forthcoming meetings (item 12 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

RESOLVED

1. that the issue “Review of Arrangements for Managing Projects and Programmes – Outcome” be added to the Committee’s work programme, to be considered 17th August 2010;
2. that it be noted that the following items due to be considered at this meeting have been rescheduled to the next meeting on 18th May 2010, in consultation with the Chair:

Equality Standard for Local Government - Progress towards Level 3;
Climate Change Strategy Action Plan – Performance;
Rent Arrears Update;
3. that the Scrutiny Commission be informed that the Committee wishes to proceed on the basis of the following work programme, which incorporates all decisions made at this meeting:

Cabinet Lead Members should be invited where Chair/Vice-chair consider appropriate.

ISSUE	MEETING
Performance Indicators	Quarterly. 18th May 2010. Directors (or appropriate substitutes) to attend in respect of Indicators reported as Red (significantly off target).
Human Resource Issues	Quarterly. 18th May 2010.
Treasury Management and Borrowing under Prudential Guidelines	Annual Report (2009/10 Outturn) 18th May 2010. Mid Year Treasury Report 30th November 2010.
Climate Change Strategy Action Plan – Performance	Annually 18th May 2010.
Capital Monitoring including Out-turn	Ongoing.
Revenue Monitoring (General Fund and HRA) including Out-turn	Ongoing.
Fly Tipping and Graffiti - Performance	18th May 2010. Further position report following consideration on 24th November 2009 and 23rd February 2010.
Free of Charge Swimming for Under 16 and Over 60 Year Olds - Impact	18th May 2010. Further position report following consideration on 23rd February 2010.
Rent Arrears - Update	18th May 2010. Further position report following consideration on 24th November 2009. Director of Housing and Health and representative of CNH to attend.

Equality Standard for Local Government – Progress Towards Achieving Level 3	<i>18th May 2010.</i>
Food Establishments – Compliance with Food Hygiene Law (NI 184)	<i>18th May 2010.</i>
Leisure and Culture Best Value Improvement Plan	<i>18th May 2010.</i>
Review of Arrangements for Managing Projects and Programmes – Outcome	<i>17th August 2010.</i>
Non-contact Technology	Brief report on what it involves/how it might be employed by Council. <i>To be programmed.</i>

Reasons

1. At its meeting on 1st December 2009, the Audit Committee had been informed that the outcome of this review would be reported to the Performance Scrutiny Committee and it was necessary to include the matter on the work programme to ensure its consideration.
2. The Chair had received requests from the Directors concerned that consideration of these matters be rescheduled and had considered the reasons for those requests to be reasonable.
3. The Committee considered its programme and amended it to provide a useful and achievable scrutiny workload over scheduled meetings in the future. That would also enable planning for future meetings of the Committee, reports to be prepared and attendances to be arranged.

Notes:

1. No reference may be made to these minutes at the Council meeting on 26th April 2010 unless notice to that effect is given to the Head of Democratic Services by five members of the Council no later than five working days following the publication of the minutes.
2. These minutes are subject to confirmation as a correct record of the Committee's decisions (at the next meeting of the Committee).