

# Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**1 July 2013**

Present: Councillor S Graham (Chair)  
Councillors J Allan, B Burdis, A Cowie, John Hunter,  
Marian Huscroft, P Mason, D McGarr, A McMullen,  
L Miller, J O'Shea, M Rankin and J Walker

School Governor Representatives  
Mrs J Little  
Mrs M Ord

Church Representatives  
Rev. M C Vine

## **OV10/07/13 Apologies**

Apologies for absence was received from Councillor A Normand, P McIntyre.

## **OV11/07/13 Substitute Members**

Pursuant to the Council's constitution the appointment of the following substitute Members was reported:-

Councillor J O'Shea for Councillor A Normand

## **OV12/07/13 Declarations of Interest**

The following declaration of interest was made:

Councillor L Miller – registerable interest – A manager of a surgery with a contract for Public Health Services, also the provider representation on the contract.

## **OV13/07/13 Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meetings held on 3 June 2013 be confirmed.

## **OV14/07/13 Community Engagement**

Cabinet Member, Councillor Carole Gambling - Community Engagement attended the meeting and presented the proposals to develop a new approach to Community Engagement.

The Committee was reminded that in April 2013 Area Forums had ended and it was agreed that new forms of engagement would be developed that would lead to a wider participation with people.

Cabinet would be asked to agree key principles for Community Engagement, these being:

- Elected Members, Residents and the Council would work together to listen and involve the people affected by issues, plans and developments.

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- A targeted consistent approach to engagement; that matches methods to the audience, subject and time with clear outcomes and feedback for everyone.
- Improved co-ordination, across the Council as well as with partners.
- Clarity and honesty about how engagement influences council decision making.
- Engagement is a continual process that includes regular feedback.

The Committee was asked to help develop a new approach to community engagement that would include the development of ward level engagement, identify the support that members might need to enable them to take a more active role in community engagement within their ward, map current networks and groups, including networks set up by different service areas within the Council or by Partners.

The Committee agreed to establish a Community Engagement sub-group to:

- assist in the development of a new approach to community engagement
- identify the support members might need to take a more active role in community engagement
- map current networks and groups

Members of the Committee questioned the availability of funds to undertake regular engagement events. The Cabinet Member informed the Committee that the funding of the Area Forums had been withdrawn as a saving in the last budget. However it was stated that some funding would be available for holding some engagement meetings.

The Committee agreed to establish a study group to look at engagement and the following Members of the Committee volunteered to serve on the group:

Councillors Sandra Graham, Jim Allan, Brian Burdis and Rev Michael Vine

It was requested that those Members not in attendance be invited to join the study group and that all Members of the Committee be canvassed to their availability, so that the necessary information was at hand when establishing future study groups.

**Agreed** that (1) Overview and Scrutiny Committee establish a study group to investigate how to develop Community Engagement with Councillors S Graham, J Allan, B Burdis and Rev M Vine and any other invited members making up the Study Group; and (3) Members of the Committee be canvassed to check their availability to sit on future study groups.

### **OV15/07/13 Council Plan 2014-18**

Deputy Mayor – Councillor Bruce Pickard attended the meeting and presented the proposals to develop a new Council Plan 2014-18 “Our North Tyneside”.

The Committee was reminded that as part of the Council’s budget and policy framework, the Committee was required to consider the initial proposals and make comments and/or recommendations on the consultation proposals and timetable.

The Council Plan would set out the Authority’s policy direction and strategic priorities and would set the delivery priorities for the Financial Planning and Budget setting process for 2014-18.

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It would also provide the framework for partnership working through the North Tyneside Strategic Partnership and as such would replace the current Sustainable Community Strategy.

The timetable for the development of the Council Plan was included and indicated that the plan would be presented to Council for approval on 26 September 2013.

The Committee was reminded of the Authority's engagement activities carried out together with partners. Additional focused engagement would be undertaken to seek residents' views during the development of the Council Plan 2014-18 "Our North Tyneside".

A Member enquired if there was a need for the Sustainable Community Strategy and how could the Council influence the plans of its partners. The Strategic Manager Policy & Partnerships indicated that there was not a statutory need to have a Sustainable Community Strategy and the partners would adhere to the new Council Plan objectives.

**Agreed** that the Council Plan 2014-18 initial proposals and timetable be noted.

### **OV16/07/13 Performance Progress Reports**

Deputy Mayor – Councillor Bruce Pickard presented the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and North Tyneside Strategic Partnership (NTSP) performance reports.

The Committee was informed that a new corporate performance management framework was to be developed and subsequent SLT performance reports that would be considered by the Committee would be different in content and format.

In relation to the NTSP progress report this would also be the last of the current Sustainable Community Strategy and would be replaced as the development of the new Council Plan was progressed.

With respect to the SLT performance progress report, Members requested further background information to the following.

- Infrastructure
- Housing Strategy
- Health and Wellbeing
- Housing (tenant services)
- Coastal Development

Assurances were given that the information requested would be circulated.

**Agreed** that (1) the SLT progress report 1 April 2012 – 31 March 2013 and the NTSP Annual Performance Report 102-13 be noted; and (2) the further information requested be circulated to Members of the Committee.

### **OV17/07/13 Public Health Transition**

The Committee received a report regarding the transition of Public Health into the local authority.

Lead Member of the sub-group Councillor Alison Waggott-Fairley presented the report that detailed the work undertaken by a sub-group of the Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Sub-committee.

The objective of the study was to seek assurance that the transfer would ensure adequate resources to create high quality and locally accountable health system.

The sub-group focussed on the:

- Public Health Grant 2013/14 and transfer of staff to the local authority
- Governance arrangements and the operation model that the local authority has adopted for public health.
- Public Health service contracts transferring into the local authority and the commissioning intentions for 2013/14.

The report detailed 6 recommendations and asked the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to agree them and refer them to Cabinet for consideration at its meeting on the 8 July 2013. The recommendations were as follows:

- R1: That Cabinet ask the Director of Public Health to give priority to producing a medium to long term strategic plan for public health.
- R2: That Cabinet ask the Director of Public Health to ensure that Service Level Agreements are set up with any Council based service in receipt of public health grant monies.
- R 3: That Cabinet ask the Director of Public Health to ensure that robust performance management processes are in place to monitor the key indicators, so that the maximum 'health premium' reward is achieved.
- R4: That Cabinet agree to establish a Public Health Advisory Board as outlined in Option B (paragraph 6.3.10) in the full report.
- R5: That Cabinet agree a Council public health policy statement.
- R6: That Cabinet approve, in principle, to the provision of commissioned health improvement services by North Tyneside Council, where this would achieve improved health outcomes, reduced inequalities and best value.

**Agreed** that the Transition of Public Health into the Local Authority report and its six recommendations be submitted to Cabinet at its meeting on the 8 July 2013.

### **OV18/07/13 Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2013-14**

The Committee received a report detailing the priority topics and other items for consideration for each of the sub-committees. The items would be considered throughout the year and had been agreed at the Chairs and Deputy Chairs meeting.

The Committee was asked to consider and note the list of topics per sub-committee that were to be taken forward during 2013-14 as part of the overall work programme.

**Agreed** that the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2013-14 be noted.