

Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee

7 July 2014

Present: Councillor S Graham (Chair)
Councillors J Allan, B Burdis, S Day, P Earley,
Janet Hunter, John Hunter, N Huscroft, D McGarr,
P McIntyre, A McMullen, J Pickard and J O'Shea

School Governor Representatives
Mrs J Little
Mrs M Ord

Church Representatives
Rev Vine

Others in attendance
Councillors G Bell, L Bell, L Darke, P Oliver,
B Pickard and J Walker

OV01/07/14 Apologies

Apologies for absence was received from Cllr M Hall and J McLaughlin

OV02/07//14 Substitute Members

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

Councillor J O'Shea for Councillor M Hall

OV03/07/14 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest reported.

OV04/07/14 Minutes

Resolved that the (1) minute of the meetings held on 31 March 2014 be confirmed; (2) minutes of the Environment and Culture Sub-Committee held on 12 March 2014 and the Economic Prosperity and Housing Sub-Committee held on the 24 March 2014 be noted.

OV05/07/14 Children and Young Peoples Plan

The Committee received and considered the draft Children and Young People's Plan 2014-18.

The plan provided the strategic framework for the planning, commissioning and delivery of children's services in the borough. It had been developed by the Children, Young People and Learning Partnership and would replace the current plan that would expire at the end of 2014.

The Committee was reminded that in February 2014, it had approved the Children, Young People's and Learning Partnership proposals for the consultation of the new plan. The feedback from the consultation had been combined with the strategic needs analysis to identify the partnerships priorities for the next four years.

The Head of Commissioning and Fair Access stated the importance of the shared strategic plan as the boroughs children's services would face significant challenges in future years and the plan set out the shared vision and priorities that would provide a strategic framework.

The priority themes and outcomes for the 2014-18 plan were;

Priority 1. Ready for School

Outcome 1.1 A Healthy Early Childhood

Outcome 1.2 Children are Ready to Start School

Priority 2. Ready for Work and Life

Outcome 2.1 Narrow the gap in educational outcomes

Outcome 2.2 Ready for Employment

Outcome 3.2 Reduce Risk Taking Behaviour

Priority 3. Safe, Supported and Cared For

Outcome 3.1 The most vulnerable children and young people are cared for

Outcome 3.2 Improved outcomes for looked after children

Outcome 3.2 The right support for children and young people with disabilities and additional needs

The plan's priorities were aligned with the 'Our North Tyneside Plan', the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Safer North Tyneside Plan.

It was stressed that the plan would be the framework for all future changes/reviews of services that involve Children and Young People.

It was questioned to what would be the level of scrutiny to the impact of the work to deliver the priority themes and associated outcomes. It was stated that the scrutiny of the priorities would be through the Children, Education and Skills Sub-Committee.

Agreed that the proposals for developing the Children and Young People's Plan 2014-18 be noted.

OV06/07/14 Creating a Brighter Future

The Deputy Chief Executive and members of the Council's Senior Leadership Team (SLT) attended the Committee to present the Creating a Brighter Future change programme.

The Committee was informed that a programme of consultation events had been scheduled where all Council staff were invited to be informed of the future changes and challenges the Council was facing to ensure both future savings and the delivery of its services.

It was highlighted the need to manage demand of services, creating a robust approach that would allow the managing of costs, working better with partners and designing services to deliver customer priorities.

The programme consisted of 14 projects, 4 service redesign projects, 5 infrastructure projects and 5 cross cutting enabling projects.

Members of SLT who were the principal lead provided information and context to the need of each of the projects.

It was stated that the programme would demonstrate significant change to the delivery of services and that the development of detailed plans were progressing and that updates would be provided when necessary.

Agreed that the presentation on the Creating a Brighter future be noted.

OV07/07/14 Work programme 2014/15

A report was received that detailed the outcome of the Scrutiny Chairs/Deputy Chairs meeting 11 March 2014 that had agreed that the Committee should continue to focus on policy development work.

A long list of priority topics had been agreed and sub committee's would consider those within their remit with a view to agree a work programme for 2014-15.

Those that fell into the Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee remit were:

- Review of Community Conversations,
- Review of the work of the Kier Joint Venture,
- Continue the Local Plan Sub-Group.

The Chair encouraged all members to participate in any studies carried out during the new municipal year and hoped that some good cross party scrutiny would be accomplished.

It was stated that the work of the Local Plan Sub-Group was complete and the final findings and recommendations would be presented to the Committee at the September meeting.

It was agreed that the Community Conversations Sub-Group be arranged and those members of the original Community Engagement Sub-Group be approached to continue to be involved.

It was agreed that arrangements be made to set up a sub-group to review the work of the Kier Joint Venture and that Members of Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee, Housing Sub-Committee and Finance Sub-Committee be invited to participate.

A member raised concerns with regards to the workings of the Constitution Task Group and asked that a possible study be undertaken. It was suggested that further clarification be sort from officers to the position of the concern by the Member before placing this on the work programme.

Another Member raised an issue with the level of Customer Services from some service areas within the authority and asked that consideration be made to place this on the work programme for a future study.

Agreed that (1) arrangements be made to establish a Community Conversations Sub-Group with an invitation be extended to those Members involved in the Community Engagement Sub-Group; (2) arrangements be made to establish a Kier Joint Venture Sub-Group; (3) that further clarification be sort from officers to the concerns raised regarding the Constitution Task Group; and (4) the topic of Customer Service be placed on the work programme as a possible future study.