

Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee

2 February 2015

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

School Governor Representatives
Mrs J Little
Mrs M Ord

Church Representatives
Rev Vine

Others in attendance
Councillors J Harrison & L Spillard

OV33/02/15 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr P McIntyre, J McLaughlin and Mr G O'Hanlon – Church representative.

OV34/02/15 Substitute Members

There were no substitute members

OV35/02/15 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest reported.

OV36/02/15 Minutes

Resolved that the minute of the meetings held on 5 January 2015 be confirmed as a true record.

OV37/02/15 North Tyneside Local Plan – Further Consultation Draft

The Committee received a report and presentation that set out the proposed consultation on the Local Plan Consultation Draft and the overall timetable for production of the North Tyneside Local Plan.

The Committee was reminded that once adopted the Local Plan would protect and improve those things about North Tyneside that were most important to its residents such as the natural environment and open spaces. It would also be an important tool to allow the Council to manage development in the borough and prevent unplanned developments that could otherwise be allowed despite local views.

Throughout the consultation the Authority would maintain its commitment to engaging as widely as possible with residents, businesses and all those who may be affected by or have an interest in the Local Plan.

The Consultation Draft 2015 for the North Tyneside Local Plan had been prepared for public engagement in accordance with the timetable agreed by Cabinet. The next stage of consultation would commence on the 9th February 2015 and close on the 27th March 2015, with responses received to be considered in preparing the Final Proposals.

Subject to approval of the final proposals by full Council, a formal engagement with the public, other stakeholders and partners would take place in late summer 2015. It was requested that a comprehensive list of those to be consulted be circulated to members of the committee for their information.

It was suggested that the views of the people who live in Neighbouring Authorities that border North Tyneside should be sought as planning applications made in the borough could have possible impact on them. It was stated that there would be a consultation launch and press release that would set out the purpose of the consultation and details of events that would be taking place and all views received would be recorded and considered.

The Chair also emphasised the importance of the role of Ward Members in engaging with those within their Wards.

All responses and objections to the Publication Draft would be considered by an independent inspector through a public examination. Following the examination and subject to the findings of the Inspector the Local Plan can be adopted as policy of the Council.

Agreed that (1) the North Tyneside Local Plan – Further Consultation Draft be noted; and (2) the views from people from neighbouring authorities that border North Tyneside be received and recorded to provide further a wider evidence base of the consultations undertaken.

OV38/02/15 Library Review Study Group

The Committee received the finding of the review in relation to the Library provision across North Tyneside.

Councillor S Day, Chair of the Study group stated that the main objective was to examine the ability of the Authority to meet its obligation to provide a Library Service to:

- i) Provide a comprehensive and efficient library service for all persons in the area that want to make use of it.
- ii) Lend books and other printed material free of charge for those who live, work or study in the area.

The obligations were considered in the context of:

- a shrinking financial envelope to meet service delivery;
- the wider review of Council accommodation and its use;
- changing patterns of consumer behaviour in relation to print and published media;
- greater expectations for partnership working arising from the Council's change programme

The group held a series of evidence gathering meetings with expert witnesses between September and December 2014 and made 6 recommendations.

The report stated that North Tyneside that there were four Customer Service Centres and a network of 10 branch libraries available to users and it was requested that the these be listed for clarification in the report.

Agreed that the Library Review Study Group report and recommendations be referred to Cabinet:-

R1: Does not proceed with any immediate library closures as part of the budget setting process for 2015/16;

R2: Examines the sustainability of library building assets in the context of the wider accommodation review, being undertaken as part of the Council's change programme;

R3: As part of the accommodation review, considers how community facilities can be best used on an area basis;

R4: Explores the feasibility of expanding alternative delivery models for library services utilising mobile facilities and electronic media;

R5: Examines the financial model and revenue structure of Customer First Centres; and

R6: Asks the Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee to work with officers to review progress on the above recommendations in the coming year.

OV39/02/15 Alcohol Related Violent Crime Review

The Committee received the response by Cabinet to the recommendations made as part of the Alcohol Related Crime Sub-group.

Appended to the report were details to the actions to be taken for each of the study groups recommendations.

Agreed that the Alcohol Related Crime Sub-group be noted.