

Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee

30 March 2015

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

School Governor Representatives
Mrs J Little
Mrs M Ord

Church Representatives
Rev Vine

Others in attendance
Councillors B Pickard & G Bell

OV39/03/15 Apologies

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

OV40/03/15 Substitute Members

There were no substitute members

OV41/03/15 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest reported.

OV42/03/15 Minutes

Resolved that the minute of the meetings held on 2 February 2015 be confirmed.

OV43/03/15 Our North Tyneside Plan – Performance Report

The Committee received the report that detailed the performance against the outcome measures in the Our North Tyneside Plan and revealed that ten of the seventeen measures had new or updated information.

The committee heard that seven measures showed improvement with three declining.

A general request was made for more regular information on performance to be presented to the Committee.

In relation to measure 2: The gap in educational attainment across the borough has been reduced - It was suggested that the Children, Education and Skills Sub Committee should monitor the effectiveness of the support and challenge programme to ensure Free School Meals (FSM) pupils make comparable progress than those not in receipt of FSM. A member raised the issue around Measure 8: Number of small business start ups and questioned what data was available to understand how long new businesses were

operating and the amount that were failing after a short period. It was stated that there was a need to have some understanding to the Value for Money (VfM) of providing support and grants to businesses that only operate for a short term. The Head of Corporate Strategy reassured the Committee that works was continuing to look at methods and ways to improve performance data.

In relation to Measure 3a: Cardiovascular Disease Health Checks (CVD), it was requested that information be circulated to members on the current position within the 5 year cycle and if the targets of the programme would be delivered in that time. It was also requested that if targets were not on track, who would be prioritised?

In relation to Measure 9: Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) claimants, it was questioned to reliability of the measure of unemployment.

It was suggested that the Economic Prosperity Sub Committee should consider investigating the JSA process, targets (KPI's) and issues around this area of service delivery.

Agreed that (1) Our North Tyneside Plan - performance report be noted; (2) the Children, Education and Skills Sub Committee should monitor the effectiveness of the support and challenge programme and (3) the Economic Prosperity Sub Committee should consider to investigate the JSA process, targets(KPI's) and issues around this area of service delivery.

OV44/03/15 Scrutiny Annual Report 2014/15

The Committee received the Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee Annual Report 2014/15.

The report set out the work undertaken by Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee, its 7 sub-committees and various sub-groups during 2014/15 municipal year.

Agreed that the Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee Annual Report be submitted to Annual Council on 21 May 2015.

OV45/03/15 Rights of Way Sub-group Report

The Committee received a report from that detailed the work carried out by the Rights of Way Sub-group.

It heard Public Rights of Way (PRoW) was selected because the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 created a cut off date by which those PRoWs which existed and were not recorded on the Definitive Map and Statement would be extinguished and lost forever.

North Tyneside Council as the Highway Authority has a statutory duty to record all PRoWs and to ensure that the public can make full use of PRoW network. Current estimates indicated that there were approximately 130 miles of PRoWs in North Tyneside that had not been recorded on the Definitive Map and Statement.

The Sub group also examined the systems in place to ensure that the rights of way in the area were properly maintained both now and in the future.

The report raised the positive contribution to the formulation of future plans or strategies that would allow for community involvement.

The Sub Group review the current position in relation to the recording of Public Rights of Way on the Definitive Map and Statement and assessed the implications of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. It also examined the options for the maintenance and future maintenance of Public Rights of Way.

The group held a series of evidence gathering meetings with officers of the Authority, partners organisations and representatives of the Rights of Way user groups and made 6 recommendations for Cabinet to consider.

It was raised that no Waggonways within North Tyneside were recorded on the definitive map and could be lost if not recorded properly.

Discussions took place on the view for the desired need to establish a Rights of Way Sub-group to ensure the necessary monitoring and recording of rights of way on the definitive map was undertaken.

It was suggested that the covering report to Cabinet should emphasise the need to ensure that Public Right of Way are included and consistently considered in all the relevant the Councils Plans.

Agreed that the Rights of Way Sub-group report and recommendations be referred to Cabinet and that:-

R1: a Rights of Way Sub-group be set up to engage with residents and user groups and to monitor the recording of the Rights of Way on the Definitive Map and Statement.

R2: Cabinet be requested to arrange for the 4 Definitive Maps and Statements which cover North Tyneside to be reviewed, updated and combined into one North Tyneside Definitive Map and Statement within 18 months.

R3: Cabinet be requested to arrange for the inclusion of the existing unrecorded rights of way on Council owned land on to the Definitive Map and Statement within 24 months

R4: Cabinet be requested to develop a timetable and work programme that will ensure that all existing unrecorded Rights of Way are added to the Definitive Map and Statement before the 31 December 2025

R5: Cabinet be requested to ensure that, in line with best practice, the current and up to date Definitive Map and Statement is made available on the Authority's website along with information for walkers, horse riders, and cyclists, landowners and developers. The website should also include a facility for claiming new or modifying existing rights of way and for users to report issues on the rights of way network.

R6: Cabinet be requested to ensure that a corporate approach (including Planning, Highways, Tourism and Public Health) to the maintenance,

OV46/03/15 Young Women and STEM Sub-group Report

The Committee received a report from that detailed the work carried out by the Young Women and STEM Sub-group.

It heard the sub group was established to examine how to encourage young women to study STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).

STEM was selected because areas of employment growth in the borough were anticipated within the technical, manufacturing, engineering and digital sectors. It was therefore important that young people had the relevant skills and qualifications in the area to enable them to benefit from the expected employment growth and that these opportunities were taken up by boys and girls.

The Sub Group examined the attempts at increasing the numbers of girls and young women studying STEM subjects. It examined and considered the success of these attempts and other actions that could increase the numbers of girls and young women studying STEM subjects.

The sub-group a series of evidence gathering meetings with representatives from organisations and schools and also spoke to some young women studying STEM subjects at GCSE and AS Level and as apprentices and made 6 recommendations for Cabinet to consider.

It was suggested that the covering report to Cabinet with regards to recommendation 3, that a named member of staff and governor be assigned the responsibility for promoting STEM if possible also be female.

Agreed that the Young Women and STEM Sub-group report and recommendations be referred to Cabinet and that:-

R1: Cabinet requests the Head of Children, Young People and Learning to organise a programme of events/resources for teachers, particularly for teachers of Years 7 to 9, with up to date information on what opportunities and careers can be expected by anyone with STEM qualifications and an understanding of how to access these, including the vocational route.

R2: Cabinet requests the Head of Children, Young People and Learning to ask all schools to review existing information for parents of children aged 11-14 to provide increased focus upon what opportunities and careers can be expected by anyone with STEM qualifications, but particularly for women, and an understanding of how to access these, including the vocational route.

R3: Cabinet requests the Head of Children, Young People and Learning to ask each school in the borough to assign the responsibility for promoting STEM to a named member of staff and a governor. These people will have the responsibility to promote STEM as a subject and particularly focus on ensuring the participation of girls and young women.

R4: Cabinet requests the Head of Children, Young People and Learning to improve the existing school and local authority STEM network for the STEM leads/co-ordinators and ensure it meets regularly to share practice, coordinate ideas and organise regular events.

R5: Cabinet requests the Head of Children, Young People and Learning to ask all schools to consider holding girl only science, maths and IT clubs or if this is unfeasible advertise the girls only clubs which are held elsewhere.

R6: Cabinet requests the Head of Children, Young People and Learning considers what support and advice would need to be offered to all middle/secondary schools to enable them to pilot single sex classes for STEM subjects and to explore these options at a meeting of the STEM Network.

OV47/03/15 Cabinet Response on the report of Community Conversations

The Committee received the response by Cabinet to the recommendations made as part of the Community Conversations Sub-group.

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

Agreed that the Community Conversations Sub-group be noted.

OV48/03/15 Exclusion Resolution

RESOLVED that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and having applied a public interest test as defined in Part Two of Schedule 12A of the Act the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 and 3 of Part One of Schedule 12A of the Act.

OV49/03/15 Freedom of the Borough Nomination

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a report which outlined the process for the award of the Freedom of the Borough and sought approval of the eligible nominations submitted.

The Committee was required to assess any nomination submitted and recommend a maximum of two to Annual Council on 21 May 2015 for final consideration.

Any nomination for the award of Freedom of the Borough of North Tyneside must be persons/organisations of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the borough and have either:

- a) lived in the borough; or
- b) worked or been based in the borough; or
- c) been born in the borough.

Agreed that the nomination recommended for the award of the Freedom of the Borough be submitted to Annual Council on 21 May 2015 for final consideration.