

# Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee

10 January 2017

Present: Councillor S Graham (Chair)  
Councillors J Allan, S Cox, N Craven,  
S Day, P Earley, Janet Hunter, A McMullen,  
T Mulvenna, J O'Shea, M Rankin and J Wallace

## OV43/01/17 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Austin and B Burdis  
Rev M Vine and Mr O'Hanlon – Church Representative,

## OV44/01/17 Substitute Members

There were no substitute Members

## OV45/01/17 Declarations of Interest

Councillor M Rankin declared a personal interest in agenda item 7 Waste Collections  
Post 2017 Sub-group report – Cabinets Response as he had a professional working  
relationship with a service provider referred to in the report (Minute OV49/01/17) he did  
not speak or comment on the item.

## OV46/01/17 Minutes

**Resolved** that minute of the meeting held on 24 November 2016 be confirmed;

## OV47/01/17 Creating a Brighter Future – update

The Committee received a progress report to key Business Cases of the Creating a  
Brighter Future (CBF) Programme for the third quarter of 2016/17.

The Committee was reminded that Cabinet had agreed 14 Business Cases that  
would go towards achieving the priorities set out in Our North Tyneside Plan, the  
CBF Programme and the Target Operating Model.

Although there were 14 Business Cases, some required more than one project to  
deliver the required aims and objectives, there were 28 projects in total. The report  
detailed the progress made and identified key milestones and risks to delivery.

A summary was provided that showed that status across the 28 projects contained  
within the CBF Programme

RAG Rating	Project Status	Savings Delivery
Complete	16 projects complete	16 projects fully realised savings
Green	11 projects on track with no risks identified	6 projects expect to fully realise savings

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Amber	1 projects had risks to delivery identified	6 projects had risks to savings identified <b>or</b> savings would accrue throughout the year
Red	0 projects had major risks to delivery identified	0 projects had major risks to savings realisation identified

The Committee took particular notice to the projects that were rated as Amber and were:

### **BC06b: Community Provision of Family Services**

It was noted that there was a projected shortfall in the savings for this project which was due to the delay in recruitment to the vacant posts in the new model and work would continue to address the remaining shortfall.

### **BC09/ASC1: Independent Supported Living & BC09/ASC: Review of Day Services**

The two projects were linked as part of the business case for the Commissioning of Value for Money, Adult Social Care Services.

Members questioned to the reasons why there would be a shortfall in the savings for these projects in the current year and where savings would be made.

It was stated that work would continue to review care packages and there was confidence that all reviews would be completed within the financial year.

A Member suggested that the use of key indicators be used to monitor progress.

### **BC09/ASC15: Continuing Health Care Case Management**

Clarification was sought to the reason why this project had an associated shortfall in expected savings.

It was explained that there had been a delay in the transfer of work and the projected savings would not be realised in the current financial year.

It was stated the delay was due to ongoing demographic pressures that increased the complexity of individual needs at the start of the project.

Clarification was sought to the length of the contract with the CCG and why the commencement of the contract was not delayed until the data issues were resolved.

It was understood that the contract was for 12 month contract.

### **BC11: Looked after Children Services**

It was explained that this project had seen a reduction in the numbers of children in local authority care. However it had seen an increase in expenditure. It was stated that Looked After Children is a demand led service and was therefore difficult to project savings due to the individual need of the service.

## **BC01: Citizen Interaction & Delivery of Service**

The Committee heard there was good progress with this project, which had a delivery status of green. However a shortfall in saving for 2016/17 was unlikely to be realised.

It was explained that the shortfall had been factored into the savings requirement for 2017/18 and there was confidence that these would be met through staffing and service redesign through the use of self-service technology and collaboration tooling.

**Agreed** that the Creating a Brighter Future programme Progress Report be noted

## **OV48/01/17 Budget Sub-group report**

The Committee received the report of the Budget Sub-group that had met on the 9 & 13 December to scrutinise the 2017/20 Financial Planning and Budget proposals.

The Budget Sub-group commented that it could only consider and comment on the information that has been provided to them and raised concerns that some of the information received had not been comprehensively completed especially with regards to risks associated to some businesses cases.

It was clearly understood that the Authority was facing a tough and challenging time and was faced with steeply declining government funding as well as continued pressure on already reduced budgets.

The initial budget proposals had been developed to protect and improve essential services for the people of North Tyneside, invest in the future of the borough, grow the local economy, creating more jobs and opportunities and build a more modern Authority that enables people to do more for themselves.

The proposals aim was to protect essential services and make sure that the Authority operated in as efficient a way as possible, providing excellent value for money for local taxpayers.

The sub-group highlighted areas that would continue to impact the Authority's finances that included:

The increase in rent arrears and people seeking help due to homelessness following Welfare Reform and benefit changes.

The continued increase in gaps in social care and with government moves to allow local authorities to increase a Council Tax precept of 2%, in order to fund care services on top of the basic increase in Council Tax.

There was great concern that Social Care could become unviable if not properly funded and the affects to those most in need with a shortage of suitable housing and social care packages.

It was aware that a great deal of work has been taken in the development of a strategy to deliver fairer and cost effective parking solutions and to options when the Waste Weekly Collection Support Grant ends.

It encouraged that a clear vision to how these could be delivered, be communicated and implemented at the earliest practicable time be made. This would enable savings to be realised that could then be redirected to supplement the delivery of services to those in the community with most need.

It also noted the loss of experienced officers from all sectors of the Authority and expressed its concern to the potential risk to future services delivery.

It was **Agreed** that (1) to recommend that Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee make consideration to:

- a) Carrying out a review into the engagement and activities undertaken in the 2016 budget consultation with its associated data analysis and
- b) ensure that regular monitoring of the financial risks continue through its relevant scrutiny committees;

and

- (2) the Budget Sub-Group comments and recommendations (listed) be referred to Cabinet:-

**R1:** That Council are informed and updated when the review of the proposals in relation to the provisional and Final Local Government Finance settlement have been announced.

**R2:** That the facility at Heatherfield Mews be considered for use to accommodate any Looked After Children currently accommodated outside the borough.

**R3:** That a suitable service be identified to replace the gym facility and maximise the use of the John Willie Sams Centre facility for residents.

**R4:** That the objectives for the North Tyneside Trading Company be detailed with corresponding income targets for the period of this budget.

**R5:** That the Parking Strategy be implemented as soon as practicable.

**R6:** That vehicles acquired be of multi purpose use and not restricted to single use seasonal only activities (i.e. gritters).

**R7:** That due to the projected increases in costs to manage refuse collection and the greater need to other services (especially social care) that the approach to how to collect waste be further investigated in the 2017.

### **OV49/01/17 Waste Collections Post 2017 Sub-group report – Cabinets Response**

The Committee received the response report from Cabinet to the recommendations submitted by the sub group of the Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee in relation to its study into Waste Collection Post 2017.

Appended to the report was the action to be taken and timescale for completion of each of the recommendations.

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**Agreed** that the recommendation response from Cabinet in relation to the work of the Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee its study into Waste Collection Post 2017 be noted.

### **OV50/01/17 Work Programme 2016/17 update**

The Committee received a report that provided Members the remaining suggested topics for review in the current years work programme.

The two in-depth review topics were in relation to the Capita Partnership and ICT Delivery within the Authority.

Both reviews were considered important and it was requested that both be undertaken simultaneously. It was agreed to carry out the Capita Partnership review through a sub-group and investigate an alternative route for the ICT Delivery review.

It was suggested that the Audit Committee be approached to enquire if it would consider scrutinising the ICT delivery.

It was agreed that an alternative method to how to ensure the scrutiny of the Authority's ICT Delivery would be discussed at the next Scrutiny Chairs & Deputy Chairs meeting, where it would prioritise the topic and allocate as necessary as it was important not to delay scrutiny in this area.

It was also suggested and agreed that following the recent ADHD review that a similar review would be considered in relation to other behavioural conditions such as Autism at the next Scrutiny Chairs & Deputy Chairs meeting.

**Agreed** that (1) The next in-depth review to be undertaken by the Committee would be in relation to the Capita Partnership, with alternative measure being taken to ensure the ICT Delivery topic was also reviewed; and  
(2) that a review of Behavioural Conditions (such as Autism) be considered at the next scrutiny Chairs & Deputy Chairs meeting for inclusion in the work programme for 2017/18.

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Chair 6 February 2017

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