



Minutes

Scrutiny Committee

Venue:	Committee Room
Date:	Tuesday 24 November 2015
Time:	5.00 p.m.
Present:	Councillors J Crawford (Chair), D Buckle, I Chilvers, D Mackay and D White.
Apologies for Absence:	Mrs L Casling
Officers Present:	Jonathan Lund – Deputy Chief Executive, Simon Parkinson – Lead Officer, Community Support, Sarah Thompson – Lead Officer, Housing, and Janine Jenkinson - Democratic Services Officer.
Also in Attendance:	Councillors D Peart, Lead Executive Member for Housing, Leisure, Health and Culture.
Press:	0
Public	0

20. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

To approve the minutes of the Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 22 September 2015, for signature by the Chair.

21. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

22. CHAIR'S ADDRESS TO THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

There was no address from the Chair.

23. EDGERTON LODGE AND THE USE OF DISPERSED TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION FOR HOMELESSNESS

The Committee considered a report that outlined the current position in relation to the decommissioning of Edgerton Lodge and using dispersed accommodation for homeless individuals in the Selby District.

The Committee were informed that a review of the Council's temporary accommodation requirements had been undertaken, as part of a wider Asset Management Strategy. The Lead Officer, Housing reported that it had been agreed to decommission the use of Edgerton Lodge as hostel style accommodation and for future temporary accommodation to be provided by using Ousegate Lodge and supplementing this with dispersed properties either local authority owned or private sector accommodation.

The Lead Officer, Housing explained that the occupancy levels for both Ousegate Lodge and Edgerton Lodge had dramatically reduced due to the large amount of prevention work that had been carried out by the Housing Options Team and other partner agencies.

The Committee was informed that dispersed accommodation allowed for flexibility over area and size and enabled the Council to respond quickly to changing demand, if there was a need to increase/decrease available accommodation.

The Lead Officer, Housing explained that Edgerton Lodge would be decommissioned in March 2016 and officers were continuing to analyse demand and consider the options relating to the provision of dispersed accommodation.

The Lead Officer, Housing agreed to report back to the Scrutiny Committee with any concerns, if they arose before March 2016.

RESOLVED:

- I. To note the current position in relation to dispersed temporary accommodation.**
- II. To ask the Lead Officer, Housing to provide a procedure note to the Committee, outlining the process to allocate temporary accommodation.**
- III. To bring matters back to the Committee, if Councillors have any concerns about the process outlined in the procedure.**

24. REFUGEE FAMILIES IN SELBY DISTRICT

The Lead Officer, Community Support provided the Committee with a report that outlined the Government's proposal to resettle 20,000 Syrian refugees in the UK over the next five years and what this meant for Selby District.

Councillors were informed that a partnership had been established between the County Council and the seven district/borough councils to consider how the Syrian Refugee Scheme could be supported collectively. The partnership was working with Migration Yorkshire, and local authorities from South and West Yorkshire and the Humber to consider what additional support they could provide to the partnership.

It was explained that officers were currently identifying possible housing options to support the resettlement of refugees and some housing may be used from the Council's stock. The Committee was informed that officers had held discussions with private sector landlords, to assess available capacity in the private rented sector. It was also stated that the potential to bring empty properties back into use was also being explored.

RESOLVED:

To note the update provided at the meeting.

25. TRAN PENNINE ELECTRIFICATION

The Committee was informed it had not been possible to arrange for a representative from Network Operation (LNE & EM Route) to attend the meeting but the organisation had provided Councillors with a briefing note.

The briefing note informed the Committee that the electrification of the Trans Pennine route had resumed under plans announced as part of the plan to reset Network Rail's upgrade programme.

It was explained that Network Rail was currently working with the Department for Transport and Transport for the North to develop a new plan for electrification of the Trans Pennine line between Stalybridge and Leeds and on to York and Selby.

It was outlined that the new plan would focus on delivering key capacity and journey time benefits between Manchester, Leeds and York. These benefits would support economic growth as part of the Northern Powerhouse and facilitate commuter travel into the major urban areas of the North of England.

The plan would include:

- Quicker journeys between Manchester, Leeds and York.

- More direct services between cities of the North.
- Improved reliability of passenger services.
- Electrifying the Trans Pennine route from Manchester, Leeds to York and Selby.

The briefing note informed the Committee that revised plans for the Control Period 5 (2014 – 2019) would be published in the near future.

RESOLVED:

To note the briefing note provided.

26. WORK PROGRAMME 2015/16

There was some discussion in relation to enforcement and the situation at the Great Heck waste site. The Chair suggested that the issue could be considered as a future Scrutiny review. The Committee agreed to consider including these matters in the Work Programme at the January 2016 meeting.

Councillor Buckle informed the Committee that he had met with the Lead Officer, Community Support to discuss issues in relation to Council owned Community Centres. He reported that the Lead Officer, Community Support would be undertaking a review of Council owned Community Centres, therefore rather than duplicate any work, Councillor Buckle advised that he would work with the Lead Officer and provide the Scrutiny Committee with progress updates.

Councillor Buckle reported that Telford and Wrekin Council's Scrutiny Committee had recently carried out a review of their Community Centres and they had subsequently been shortlisted for a CfPS (Centre for Public Scrutiny) Good Scrutiny Award 2014. He said it would be useful to arrange a visit to Telford and Wrekin Council to talk to members about the review. Councillor Buckle requested that the Scrutiny Committee agreed to approve that he visit Telford and Wrekin Council.

RESOLVED:

- i. To note the Work Programme 2015/16.**
- ii. To consider including enforcement and the Great Heck situation to the Work Programme at the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 26 January 2016.**
- iii. To approve and to ask the Democratic Services Officer to arrange a visit to Telford and Wrekin Council for Councillor Buckle and the Lead Officer, Community Support.**

27. FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the Forward Plan, December 2015 – March 2016.

RESOLVED:

To note the Forward Plan.

The meeting closed at 6.15 p.m.