

Minutes

Scrutiny Committee

Venue:	Committee Room
Date:	Thursday 23 March 2017
Time:	5.00 pm
Present:	Councillors Mrs W Nichols (Chair), I Chilvers, D Buckle, and Mrs D White.
Apologies:	Councillor Mrs S Duckett.
Officers present:	Dave Caulfield, Director of Economic Regeneration and Place, James Cokeham, Head of Strategic Planning, Policy and Economic Development, Stuart Robinson, Head of Business Development and Improvement, and Janine Jenkinson, Democratic Services Officer.
Public:	3
Press:	1

13. MINUTES

The Committee considered the minutes of the Scrutiny Committee held on 24 January 2017.

RESOLVED:

To approve the minutes of the Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 24 January 2017 for signature by the Chair.

14. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

15. CHAIR'S ADDRESS TO THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Chair wished to record her thanks to the emergency services staff involved in the recent terror attack that had occurred outside the House of Parliament on 22 March 2017.

With regard to the agenda, the Chair reported that the Housing Development Programme had been scheduled to be presented to the Committee meeting. The Committee was informed that a number of key schemes were now on site and officers were currently finalising plans to speed up delivery of the remaining phase 2 projects. The Chair explained that once the work had reached a suitable point, officers would present a report to the Committee for consideration.

In addition, the Chair reported that in light of the upcoming North Yorkshire County Council elections and the Committee meeting being held with the purdah period, the Monitoring Officer had raised concerns about the Committee considering sensitive topics such as, the Housing Development Programme and community centres, scheduled for the April meeting. Members were advised that the Monitoring Officer had felt that these items could potentially open up political discussion and had suggested the items be rolled over into next year's Work Programme. The Committee agreed to reschedule the items to be considered in the new municipal year.

16. AIR QUALITY IN SELBY TOWN

The Environmental Health Officer provided the Committee with a report that outlined the arrangements for managing and improving air quality within the district, and the Council's statutory obligations.

The Committee discussed the following points:

- On 29 February 2016 Selby District Council had designated its first Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) on New Street, Selby for NO_x (nitrogen oxide) levels related to traffic emissions. The council was currently working with partners at North Yorkshire County Council on an Action Plan to reduce NO_x levels.
- Members suggested that Selby District Council acted as an ambassador and set a good example to other organisations by replacing Council owned vehicles with low emission / electric vehicles.
- The use of signage in Selby Town Centre and traffic management measures to reduce congestion and car emissions.

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

17. CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT – QUARTER 3 – 2016/17

The Head of Business Development and Improvement provided an update report on the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan 2015-20, as measured by a combination of progress against priority projects / high level actions and performance against Key Performance Indicators.

Members noted the following:

- Performance on missed bins had recovered from the Q2 dip; Q3 performance was back on target.
- There had been fewer visits to the Council's leisure centres in Q3. The Head of Business Development and Improvement reported that this was to be expected when compared to Q2. An increase in visits to the leisure centres was expected to increase. Members asked if affordability and inflation increases were deterring people from visiting the leisure centres.
- There was a £358,000 shortfall in the savings target for the year reported at Q3. Whilst the current savings plan was behind target, approval of additional savings as part of the current budget would help to mitigate the shortfall.
- With regard to empty homes in the district, the Committee was advised that a dedicated Empty Homes Officer post had been established in the organisation re-structure.
- Members highlighted employee sickness absence as a concern. Q3 had seen an increase in sickness compared to both Q2 and to the same period last year. An audit of sickness absence and associated improvement actions would be reported in Q4. Members asked if the recent organisational restructure had resulted in an increase in sickness absence.
- There was some discussion about the timescale of the Car Park Strategy being pushed back. Members raised some concerns about the state of repair of some of the car parks in the district.

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

18. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the Work Programme.

Members agreed not to hold the provisional meeting scheduled; and agreed the next Committee meeting would be held on 6 July 2017.

RESOLVED:

To confirm the date of the next Committee meeting as 6 July 2017.

The meeting closed at 6.00 pm.