

Minutes of a meeting of the SCRUTINY COMMITTEE on Tuesday 3 July 2018

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Committee members:

Councillor Gant (Chair)

Councillor Altaf-Khan

Councillor Bely-Summers

Councillor Donnelly

Councillor Kennedy

Councillor Henwood (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Arshad

Councillor Djafari-Marbini

Councillor Fry

Councillor Simmons

Officers:

Stefan Robinson, Scrutiny Officer

John Mitchell, Committee and Member Services Officer

22. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Simm.

23. Declarations of interest

None.

24. Chair's Announcements

None.

25. Minutes

The Committee resolved to APPROVE the minutes of the meeting held on 05 June 2018 as a true and accurate record subject to some minor typographical amendments.

26. Work Plan and Forward Plan

The Scrutiny Officer spoke to this item. He reassured the Committee that the published Work Plan was a work in progress and did not yet reflect all those items which had been agreed.

In discussion it was agreed that, in the absence of City Executive Board (CEB) items in August which warranted the Committee's attention, the provisional date for a Scrutiny Committee on 30 July was not needed. **The meeting on 30 July is therefore cancelled.**

In relation to CEB's Forward Plan, an item on Blackbird Leys Development (to go to CEB on 18 September) had been added since publication of the Committee papers.

The Scrutiny Officer would ascertain if there was likely to be sufficient substance in the item to warrant the Committee's attention.

27. Scrutiny Review Groups 2018/19

The Scrutiny Officer explained that he had worked with the Chair and Councillor Bely-Summers as Chairs of the *Tourism Management* and *No Local Connection (Homelessness)* review groups respectively, to work up the scoping documents for both review groups. The suggestion for a review group on *Air Quality* was not being pursued for the moment because of officer concerns about capacity. This would be revisited again as a review topic following the conclusion of the other identified review groups.

In discussion about the scoping document for the *No Local Connection Review Group* it was agreed that there should be clarity throughout that it will be focused on the needs of those *without* a local connection.

The Committee **agreed** the following:

1. that the *No Local Connection* review would be undertaken first, followed by *Tourism Management*;
2. to approve the draft scoping documents;
3. that the review on Air Quality should be revisited in 2019; and
4. that membership of the review groups should be as follows:

No Local Connection (Homelessness): Cllrs Nadine Bely-Summers (Chair), Richard Howlett, Shaista Aziz, Paul Harris, Tom Landell-Mills and Craig Simmons.

Tourism Management: Cllrs Andrew Gant (Chair), James Fry, Pat Kennedy, Alex Donnelly, Paul Harris and Dick Wolff.

28. Q 4 performance

The Committee made a number of observations about the Q4 performance, including the following:

- The absence of key data in relation to Fusion Lifestyle was a concern given a previous understanding that it would be provided. These data should be provided for Q1.
- Recruitment/staff retention is an issue for some parts of the service, more detailed data about turnover etc. would be helpful.
- The introduction of Universal Credit appeared to have had consequences for some indicators and some targets should perhaps, as a result, be re-calibrated
- The percentage of planning appeals allowed on minor developments would be useful (not just for major developments).
- Customer satisfaction "at first point of contact" was generally good but the low rate of satisfaction in relation to engagement via the Internet was of concern.
- Customer satisfaction with reference to different areas of service would be worthy of consideration.

- The shortfall in collection of Council Tax and Business rates was of concern and was scheduled to be looked at by the Finance Panel.
- There was a question about the value of the indicator for the number of training places and jobs created as a result of Council investment and leadership.
- Where targets were almost universally met, repeated Scrutiny consideration of them added little value and they should be removed from future reports.

There was particular concern about the data in relation to “Days lost to sickness”. It was agreed that a report on the matter should be requested and an officer invited to allow more detailed consideration by the Committee.

As a subset of this indicator, the significance of stress, depression, anxiety and mental health were noted. It was agreed that this was a matter that might be referred to the Members’ Mental Health Challenge Panel with a request that it report back to the Committee in due course. The Scrutiny Officer would explore this suggestion, and invite the relevant people to report back to the Committee.

29. Annual Scrutiny Report

The draft Annual Scrutiny Report was agreed subject to some minor suggestions.

30. Report back on recommendations

The Chair was pleased to report that the majority of the Committee’s recommendations had been agreed.

In relation to the recommendations about Fusion Lifestyle’s targets there was some concern at CEB’s partial acceptance of the recommendations. The Committee was at liberty to refer the matter back to the Board but, for the time being, it was agreed that it would be best to wait until the arrival of Q1 data to see the extent to which the data requested had been incorporated and what performance trends were emerging.

31. Dates of future meetings

Meetings for 2018 are scheduled as followed:

Scrutiny Committee

- 30 July (CANCELLED)
- 06 September
- 08 October
- 06 November
- 04 December

Standing Panels

- Housing Standing Panel: 05 July, 11 October, 12 November
- Finance Standing Panel: 04 July, 10 September, 06 December
- Companies Panel 26 July, 11 September, 25 October, 12 December, 03 January 2019

All meetings start at 6.00 pm

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 6.30 pm

Chair

Date: Thursday 6 September 2018