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NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: Wednesday, 3 September 2014

Time: 2.00 pm (Councillors are reminded that there is pre-meeting at 1.30 pm in

LB31-32)

Place: LB31-32 - Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham, NG2 3NG

Councillors are requested to attend the above meeting to transact the following business

Acting Corporate Director for Resources

Constitutional Services Officer: Angelika Kaufhold Direct Dial: 0115 8764296

<u>AGEN</u>	<u>IDA</u>	<u>Pages</u>
1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
2	DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS	
3	MINUTES To confirm the minutes of the last meeting held on 9 July 2014	3 - 6
4	THE NOTTINGHAM PLAN - YEAR 4 (2013-14) ANNUAL REPORT Please note that the briefing paper and Nottingham Plan report will be circulated following publication of the agenda	7 - 8
5	PROGRAMME FOR SCRUTINY Report of Head of Democratic Services	9 - 20

IF YOU NEED ANY ADVICE ON DECLARING AN INTEREST IN ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA, PLEASE CONTACT THE CONSTITUTIONAL SERVICES OFFICER SHOWN ABOVE, IF POSSIBLE BEFORE THE DAY OF THE MEETING

CITIZENS ATTENDING MEETINGS ARE ASKED TO ARRIVE AT LEAST 15 MINUTES BEFORE THE START OF THE MEETING TO BE ISSUED WITH VISITOR BADGES

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held at Ground Floor Committee Room - Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham, NG2 3NG on 9 July 2014 from 14.00 - 15.20

Membership

<u>Present</u> <u>Absent</u>

Councillor Brian Parbutt (Chair) Councillor Glyn Jenkins (Vice

Councillor Azad Choudhry Chair)

Councillor Gul Nawaz Khan Councillor Ginny Klein

Councillor Neghat Nawaz Khan Councillor Mohammed Saghir

Councillor Thulani Molife Councillor Roger Steel
Councillor Anne Peach Councillor Marcia Watson

Councillor Carole-Ann Jones

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Councillor Jon - Leader of the Council

Collins

Rebecca Wilson - Political Assistant to the Labour Group
Jane Garrard - Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator
Angelika Kaufhold - Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator

15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Glyn Jenkins – other Council business Council Ginny Klein – personal Councillor Mohammed Saghir Councillor Roger Steel – other Council business Councillor Marcia Watson - personal

16 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

17 MINUTES

The Committee confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2014 as a correct record and they were signed by the Chair.

18 <u>DISCUSSION WITH COUNCILLOR JON COLLINS - LEADER OF THE</u> COUNCIL

Councillor Jon Collins, Leader of the Council presented information on his assessment of the key priorities for the Council in 2014/15. He identified his three key priorities for the year ahead as:

1. taking advantage of opportunities presented by a rising property market

- 2. focusing on education in schools, particularly secondary schools
- 3. addressing budget pressures facing the Council.

In relation to addressing budget pressures facing the Council, Councillor Collins provided the following information:

- a) The Council's budget position is difficult due to loss of government grant, alongside other pressures such as changing population demographics. The Council needs to take £54 million out of its budget over the next two years.
- b) It is important to still be ambitious for the City and not just focus on making budget savings.
- c) Mechanisms for meeting budget pressures include:
 - i. Identifying opportunities for income generation
 - ii. Reviewing and, where appropriate, sharpening budget assumptions
 - iii. Maximising benefits from good commissioning
 - iv. Changing services to deliver the same outcome at a reduced cost by identifying creative solutions, driving out bureaucracy and changing attitudes and culture
 - v. Once the above options have been exhausted it may then be necessary to review what services the Council can afford to provide.

In relation to education and schools, Councillor Collins provided the following information:

- d) The schools in Special Measures are making progress.
- e) There is a need to look at how the Council interacts with schools. It is increasingly hard to interact effectively in a fragmented system and with less resource.
- f) The Council needs to be clear about its vision for education, what it will take an active interest in and identify opportunities to provide added value and really make a difference. The Council needs to make the best of the situation created by national policy.
- g) It is important to try and build partnerships between schools.
- h) It is intended to review how the Council supports good school governance, with the aim of developing a Governors Academy by September 2014 to train school governors.
- i) The Council could 'add value' by supporting schools in recruitment of high quality teaching staff. The Council could undertake work to 'market' Nottingham to potential new employees by making it an attractive place to move to and live. This could include promoting Nottingham at national recruitment events.
- j) The campaign on school attendance has been successful and in the future there will be a focus on behaviour. As a wider societal issue, not just a concern in schools, this is an area in which the Council can add value.

In relation to maximising redevelopment opportunities, Councillor Collins provided the following information:

- k) Nottingham has been successful in obtaining a significant amount of funding through the City Deal due to its clarity on priorities and the number of big projects taking place in the City.
- I) Examples of significant projects taking place in the City include £30 million made available for a new skills hub, new development at BioCity, funding

- for the Enterprise Zone, redevelopment of Sneinton market, the Creative Quarter and the Guildhall site, Unity Square development and infrastructure projects such as widening of the A453, tram extension and train station improvement.
- m) As one of the Core Cities, Nottingham is pressing the Government for devolution of powers and funding. Progress is being achieved in making this case.
- n) East Midlands Councils will host a programme board for HS2.

Following questions from councillors, Councillor Jon Collins made the following additional points:

- o) Consultation is currently taking place on proposals for the future of the Challenge Board. It is proposed to implement a new structure based around OFSTED themes, with accountability back to the Board. It should be independent of the local authority and it is proposed to continue with an independent chair. There is also a proposal to rename it the 'Improvement Board' so as to be more inclusive of all schools.
- p) Primary school performance is continuing to improve but significant challenges remain. One of the challenges is engaging with parents whose first or second language is not English and Councillor Collins suggested that funding may be sought to provide language courses for these parents.
- q) The transition between primary and secondary schools is a challenging period because of the risk of learning loss and the fact that some pupils chose to go to County schools instead of City schools. Opportunities to address this could be found in developing more all age schools, such as Nottingham Academy. Innovative solutions are required to improve the transition period.
- r) Redevelopment of Broadmarsh Shopping Centre is definitely taking place and members of the public can view the plans in the Broadmarsh Centre.
- s) Current levers available to the Council to help reduce youth unemployment are the Nottingham Jobs Fund, the Council's apprenticeship scheme and making the Council's apprenticeships and entry level jobs only available to City residents. The Council could do more directly if it had more power devolved from Government.
- t) Governance in schools is too weak and the Council can help to strengthen this. The Council is working with the universities on developing the Governors Academy. The aim is that training is provided before anyone can become a local authority governor, and hopefully this will be through an accredited qualification. It is hoped that schools will encourage other governors to undertake accredited training. There are also plans to involve businesses to support their employees in becoming governors, as part of their corporate social responsibility.
- u) There is demand for council housing and it is financially viable to renew existing council housing and build new houses. The Council could also play a role in making low cost housing available for rent or sale, and there could be scope for Nottingham City Homes to undertake this role. It is also important to encourage developers to build large family houses in the City to meet demand from all parts of the market. There is a need for ambitious targets in relation to housing over the next 4 years.
- v) The number of vacant commercial properties owned by the Council is declining but due to the size of the property portfolio the Council will

- probably never have sufficient resource to manage it as necessary. Alternative ways of managing the portfolio are being explored, for example involving a partner in property management.
- w) The Leader of the Council's portfolio now includes 'schools', but it is about influencing rather than controlling the schools agenda. The ambition is for every child in the City to be taught in a school judged 'good' or 'outstanding' by OFSTED. The Council's role is to be a champion for children and parents and make sure support offers to schools add value.
- x) Grant aid to the community and voluntary sector has not been cut but it is being managed differently. It is intended to reduce the value of the Infrastructure contract and shift funding to area based grant, giving more control to local areas. The current balance of funding between areas is historic but it should reflect the level of need. The Council is working to achieve this but it can't be done immediately because the voluntary sector needs time to adapt. The value of contracts held by the voluntary sector has reduced due to overall value of contracts being reduced but the proportion of contract values held by the voluntary sector remains broadly the same.

The Chair thanked Councillor Collins for attending the meeting and identified the following issues raised during discussion that the Committee should take account of in its future work:

- (1) activity taking place to strengthen school governance will have implications for the point at which the Committee re-engages on school accountability issues:
- (2) health scrutiny councillors should be mindful of Councillor Collins' concern that public health is able to demonstrably show outcomes; and
- (3) progress on redevelopment will need to be reviewed when the Committee revisits the Growth Plan.

19 PROGRAMME FOR SCRUTINY

Angelika Kaufhold introduced a report of the Head of Democratic Services detailing the scrutiny work programme for 2014/15. She highlighted that the Committee will be looking at progress against the Nottingham Plan in September and several councillors will be asked to take part in the separate One Nottingham Board Performance Session. She also advised the Committee that in September it would need to agree the programme of scrutiny reviews to be carried out during 2014/15.

RESOLVED that

- (1) scoping of a possible review of female genital mutilation be undertaken and brought back to the Committee for consideration; and
- (2) the following items be added to the scrutiny work programme:
 - i. Nottingham City Safeguarding Board Annual Report
 - ii. A scrutiny review of the Council's implementation of the Children and Families Act 2014, with a particular focus on school attendance and the rate of transitioning arrangements of existing statements and issuing of the new Educational Health and Care Plans for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

3 SEPTEMBER 2014

THE NOTTINGHAM PLAN TO 2020 - YEAR 4 (2013-14) ANNUAL REPORT

REPORT OF HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1. Purpose

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider the progress of the Nottingham Plan against the priorities and targets set on an annual basis. This is the Year 4 Annual Report and the Committee is asked to consider the successes and challenges of the refreshed targets for 2013-14.

2. Action required

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- (a) provide comments for the One Nottingham Board on the progress made during Year 4 (2013-14);
- (b) to appoint a minimum of two councillors to participate in the Joint One Nottingham and Scrutiny Performance Panel due to be held on Friday 12 September 2014 at 2.30 pm (Loxley House). This will focus on areas which are not performing as well as expected or merit greater understanding.

3. Background information

- 3.1 The Nottingham Plan is the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy which sets out a 10 year plan to achieve a vision of what Nottingham should look like in 2030.
- 3.2 The Year 3 (2012-13) Annual report was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4 September 2013 and the Joint One Nottingham and Scrutiny Performance Panel was attended by the Vice-Chair, Councillor Glyn Jenkins.
- 3.3 The Committee at that time suggested that the key priorities for the coming year (2013 -14) should include¹:
 - Employment and education:
 - Public Health issues;
 - Building of new homes and focus on family homes;
 - Children in poverty.

The discussion relating to the above topics is attached as Appendix 1.

¹ Minutes (23'm' to'p') of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 4 September 2013.

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- 3.4 The One Nottingham Board and the Executive Board approved a refresh of the Nottingham Plan in May 2014² to ensure that the right areas of work are prioritised and partnership resources are targeted appropriately. The details can be found in the report to the Executive Board on 20 May 2014.
- 3.5 In summary, for Year 4 around half the targets are performing well with a small percentage at 'amber' which is below expected levels. Just under a third remain behind target 'red'.
- 3.6 The key success and challenges for the year are detailed in the briefing paper which will be circulated following publication of the agenda.

4. List of attached information

None

5. Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information None.

Published documents referred to in compiling this report 6.

Agenda and minutes for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 4 September 2013

Agenda and minutes for the Executive Board held on 20 May 2014

7. Wards affected

ΑII

8. **Contact information**

> Angelika Kaufhold Overview and Scrutiny Review Co-ordinator

Tel: 0115 87 64296

Email: angelika.kaufhold@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

² This can be found in the minutes of the Executive Board held on 20 May 2013 - via this link: http://committee.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cld=177&Mld=3911&Ver=4

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

3 SEPTEMBER 2014

PROGRAMME FOR SCRUTINY

REPORT OF HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1. Purpose

To consider and set the overall programme and timetable for scrutiny activity for the forthcoming year.

2. Action required

The Committee is asked to:

- (a) note the items scheduled on the work programme for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- (b) note that the meeting originally scheduled to take place on Wednesday 5 November has now been moved to Wednesday 12 November 2014 at 2.00 pm;
- (c) to note that the three Scrutiny Review Panels for 2014/15 be put temporarily on hold;
- (d) to note that the Chair of the Nottingham City Children's Safeguarding Board will be attending this Committee on 7 January 2014 to provide an update on the outcome and action taken since the OfSTED report was published in May 2014;
- (e) to agree that, for the following Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings, the Scrutiny Review Panel chairs will chair (subject to availability) the main committee meeting and be involved in discussions of how the topics will be presented at the chairs briefing, as well as summarising the key points at the main committee meeting, forming a conclusion and formulating recommendations.
 - 8 October 2014 Probation Reforms Councillor Gul Khan to chair
 - 12 November 2014 From "good to great" Councillor Carole Jones to chair
 - 3 December 2014 Nottingham Growth Plan Councillor Glyn Jenkins to chair

3. Background information

3.1 One of the main roles of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is setting, managing and co-ordinating the overall programme of scrutiny work.

This includes:

- mapping out an initial programme for scrutiny at the start of the municipal year
- monitoring progress against the programme throughout the year, and making amendments as required
- evaluating the impact of scrutiny activity and using lessons learnt to inform future decisions about scrutiny activity.
- 3.2 At this meeting, councillors are asked to note that the reason for temporary suspension of the three Scrutiny Review Panels is due to changes in the Scrutiny Team which will impact on the capacity to deliver these panels in the short term.
- 3.3 As a development opportunity for the Scrutiny Review Panel chairs and due to the fact that it is unlikely that any review panels will take place before the end of this year (2014), it is proposed that they take responsibility for chairing the main committee for a single meeting. This includes all the preparations and discussions prior at the chairs briefing, as well as being supported and mentored by Councillor Parbutt (and the scrutiny team), on best practice how to draw together key points, a conclusion and any recommendations.
- 3.4 In setting the programme for scrutiny activity, the Committee should aim for an outcome-focused work programme that has clear priorities and is matched against the resources available to deliver the programme. It is intended to hold reviews in single session meetings with topics that lend themselves to this style of review.

Commissioning scrutiny reviews

- 3.5 Delivery of the programme will primarily be through the commissioning of time-limited (2 to 3 meetings maximum) review panels to carry out reviews into specific, focused topics. All reviews must have the potential to make a positive impact on improving the wellbeing of local communities and people who live and/or work in Nottingham; and to ensure resources are used to their full potential, reviews must have a clear and tight focus and be set a realistic but challenging timetable for their completion.
- 3.6 In setting the programme of scrutiny reviews, it is important that the programme has flexibility to incorporate unplanned scrutiny work requested in-year. However, the Committee will only be able to schedule unplanned work after it has reassessed priorities across the scrutiny programme and considered the impact on existing reviews of the diversion of resources. When the Committee monitors the overall programme for scrutiny at each meeting there will be opportunity to do this.
- 3.7 The Committee has already been provided with background information on potential scrutiny review items which were discussed at the meeting

held on 5 March 2014. The scopes, chair and memberships will need to be agreed for these at forthcoming meetings.

- 3.8 When establishing a review panel, the Committee needs to decide on:
 - a clear and tight remit for the review
 - a timescale within which the review should be carried out
 - size of review panel, including whether any co-opted members should be involved
 - chair of the review panel (to be appointed from the pool of five scrutiny chairs)

and should have regard to the need over the year to engage as many councillors as possible in the scrutiny process.

Schedule of 'overview' items

3.9 The Committee also needs to agree a schedule of 'overview' items to come to future Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings which is shown at Appendix 1. At each meeting, the Committee will look in-depth at one key strategic issue. In addition to providing an opportunity for scrutiny of strategic issues, this approach will support Committee members in having an overview of key current issues affecting Nottingham to inform work programming decisions.

Policy briefings

3.10 Through the process of developing the programme for scrutiny, the Committee may identify issues which call for a policy briefing. The purpose of these briefings is to inform councillors about a current key issue or to prepare councillors for review work that has been commissioned. These informal briefings will not be occasions for scrutiny to be carried out, although they may result in a suggestion for a new scrutiny topic, which would need to be considered by this Committee against the current programme for scrutiny and available resource. Policy briefings will not form part of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's agenda but will be held separately and be open to all councillors to attend.

Monitoring programme for scrutiny

3.11 On an ongoing basis the Committee will be responsible for managing and co-ordinating the programme for scrutiny and assessing the impact of scrutiny activity. At all future meetings the Committee will monitor the progress of the programme, making amendments as appropriate.

4. List of attached information

The following information can be found in the appendices to this report:

Appendix 1 - Overview and Scrutiny Committee agenda

Appendix 2 - Policy Briefing sessions

Appendix 3 - SRP topics for 2014/15

Appendix 4 - Status of SRP topics for 2013/14

Appendix 5 - Long-list of potential future SRP topics

5. Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information None

6. Published documents referred to in compiling this report None

7. Wards affected

Citywide

8. Contact information

Contact Colleagues

Angelika Kaufhold
Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator
angelika.kaufhold@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
0115 8764296

Jane Garrard
Overview and Scrutiny Coordinator
jane.garrard@nottinghamcity.
gov.uk
0115 8764315

The feasibility criteria includes:

Decision making and being a critical friend Public Interest and relevance	Is it a topic/key decision which requires consultation with Overview and Scrutiny prior to the decision being taken. Is the topic still relevant in terms of it still being an issue for citizens, partners or the council in terms of performance, delivery or cancellation of services?	Yes – include. No – apply other criteria and consider removing Yes – apply other criteria and consider inclusion No – apply other criteria and consider removing
Ability to change or influence	Can the Committee actively influence the council or its partners to accept recommendations and ensure positive outcomes for citizens and therefore be able to demonstrate the value and impact that scrutiny can have?	Yes – apply other criteria and consider inclusion No – apply other criteria and consider removing
Range and scope of impact	Is this a large topic area impacting on significant areas of the population and the council's partners or significant impact on minority groups. Is there interest from partners and colleagues to undertake and support this review and will it be beneficial?	Yes – apply other criteria and consider inclusion No – apply other criteria and consider removing
Avoidance of duplication of effort	Is this topic area very similar to one already being scrutinised in another arena or has it already been investigated in the recent past?	Yes – consider involvement in the existing activity or consider removing No – apply other criteria and consider inclusion.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee agenda - List of topics for 'overview' items

Below is a list of 'overview' items (based on background research and intended to encompass the broad remit of Overview and Scrutiny) to be included on the agendas for meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2014/15. It is intended that the Committee will consider one strategic overview item at each of its meetings. Agreed items will be scheduled depending upon timeliness for the item and availability of contributors. The following items are all subject to final confirmation.

ill the newly established probation service in ham mitigate the risks associated with its rmation and what do these changes mean for the l?
'Good to great" – changing the Council's operating – the realignment of council services: very of new city vision ablers of transformation iness enablers a the focus for restructure and how are public services ealigned to deliver more customer focused services w will this improve services to citizens?
gham Growth Plan – progress in meeting targets to youth unemployment in the City, Jobs Fund and ticeships tended 2 October 2013)
ham City Safeguarding Children Board (NCSCB) Report 2012 – 13 and progress on actions following plication of the OfSTED report in May 2014.
First/Customer Access Programme nentation – progress and what difference is this making ens? tended 8 January 2014)
DETERMINED DETERMINED

List of potential policy briefings

Below is a list of potential topics for policy briefings that have been put forward by councillors to date. The Committee will need to identify any topics to be put forward as ideas for potential policy briefing sessions at this stage – this process can be ongoing throughout the year.

Date	Topic	Comments
TBA	Individual Electoral Registration	

Potential Scrutiny Review Topics 2014/15

*Please note that due to capacity issues in the Scrutiny team these reviews are being temporarily suspended.

	Topic	Comments
1	A review of commissioning and procurement as a way of promoting equality for potential inclusion in the 2014/15	Status – suspended Proposed at OSC Feb 2014 by Imogeen Denton referred by EFC Review the procurement strategy and ask how equality measures are included Scope being drafted
2	Impact of the Children and Education Act	Status - suspended
3	NOTTINGHAM CITIZEN'S SURVEY The results of the Nottingham Citizens' survey carried out in November and December 2013 have recently been published. The following slides show some of the findings of particular relevance to the Council. O Potential areas for better understanding the implications of the Citizens' Survey 2013	Status - suspended CHAIR: Councillor C A Jones Take a more in depth look at the figures and the correlation between questions Explore the issues around why so many more disabled people expressed dissatisfaction with the Council

Appendix 4

Review of status of Scrutiny Review Panels 2013/14

Date and Time	Topic	Chair /Membership	Lead Officer
Wednesday 2 April 2014 at 2.00 pm Review temporarily suspended by OSC at July 2014 meeting	Exploring the implications of the changing educational landscape Part 2 (final meeting)	Glyn Jenkins (chair) Choudhry Sally Longford Thulani Molife Eileen Morley	Jane Garrard/Angelika Kaufhold
23 September 2013 – completed	Tackling anti-social behaviour caused by irresponsible dog owners report of the Anti-social behaviour of irresponsible dog owners - Review Panel	Mohammed Ibrahim (Chair) Glyn Jenkins Gul Khan	Status: review report published
Friday 25 October - completed	Ash die back – to review the council's response to the prevalence of ash die back and what methods of monitoring and action are taking place.	Glyn Jenkins (Chair) Gul Khan Mohammed Ibrahim Roger Steel	Status: review report published
Monday 11 November 2013 - completed	What is the Council doing to monitor and if applicable tackle parking congestion around educational establishments?	Brian Parbutt (chair) Glyn Jenkins Roger Steel	Status: review report published
Thursday 28 November 2013 2.00 pm - completed	How effective is the action being taken by the Council to communicate and enforce its policies relating to wheelie bins on pavements?	Azad Choudhury (Chair) Mohammed Ibrahim Glyn Jenkins Sally Longford Toby Neal	Status: review report published
Friday 13 December 2013 at 3.00 pm Monday 20 January 2014 at 2.00 pm	Gully Cleaning – since the implementation of the 3 Cities Good Practice Guide for gulley cleansing in 2012/13, how effective is this proving and how are customer's expectations being managed?	Glyn Jenkins (chair) Mohammed Ibrahim Gul Khan Brian Parbutt Roger Steel	Status: response to recommendations received 29 May 2014
Wednesday 22 January 2014 at	Is the funding available for tree management and	Brian Parbutt (Chair) Glyn Jenkins	Status: Report published

2.00 pm	maintenance being used in the most efficient and effective way possible? How is the Council managing the problems caused by tree roots, in particular damage to pavements/ roads?	Anne Peach Roger Steel	
Monday 3 February 2014 at 2.00 pm	How are the Council and its partners managing responsibilities for the management and upkeep of local public waterways?	Azad Choudhry (chair) Glyn Jenkins Neghat Khan Sally Longford	Status : report published
Wednesday 7 May 2014 at 2.00 pm	Allotments	Mohammed Ibrahim (chair) Glyn Jenkins Anne Peach Roger Steel	Status : report published

<u>2014/15 Scrutiny Review Panels – long-list of possible future items</u>

HOUSING IN THE CITY

How is the Council addressing the issue of creating family housing and social/affordable housing Given the census data showing families moving out of city to find suitable family housing?

COMMERCIALISM

With significant budgetary pressures expected for local government until 2019/20 how can Nottingham City Council engender a 'commercial culture' to help manage these pressures? How can we maximise the benefits of grants/charitable funding for the city?

DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES.

Trends and Challenges in Nottingham City – Understanding our changing population and potential implications to service delivery.

Need to explore the changes in demography in Nottingham and how this will impact on: The ageing population; Council services; Health Services etc.

FE COLLEGES - How far is Nottingham City Council supporting Nottingham's Further Education (FE) colleges in order to equip young people with the right skills for local employment?

IT - How is the Council ensuring its IT infrastructure is fit for purpose and meets the requirements of citizens, colleagues and councillors?

TOURISM – what is the Council doing to make Nottingham a tourist destination of choice and how does it know what citizens and tourists want?

STAFF ENGAGEMENT – how can the councillors be sure that colleagues are fully engaged with changes in work practices (commercialism) and need for leaner cost efficient services and structural changes (Good to Great). How are staff morale being measured and their views being sought? When was the last staff questionnaire and when is the next one due? What lessons have been learnt? Are these changes and austerity measures impacting on staff retention?

FIXED ODDS GAMBLING – a recent article in the Nottingham Post highlighted research carried out by the Campaign for Fairer Gambling, gamblers in Nottingham spent £40,896,139 on the machines. Nottingham is amongst the 55 most deprived English boroughs which lost £470m on the gaming machines last year, against £231m in the 115 most affluent areas in the country.

CREDIT UNIONS - An effective way of addressing citizen's increasing use of pay day lenders?

