

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held at LB31-32 - Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham, NG2 3NG on 4 March 2015 from 14.00 - 15.40

Membership

Present

Councillor Brian Parbutt (Chair)
Councillor Glyn Jenkins (Vice Chair)
Councillor Azad Choudhry
Councillor Georgina Culley
Councillor Gul Nawaz Khan
Councillor Neghat Nawaz Khan
Councillor Ginny Klein
Councillor Anne Peach
Councillor Pat Ferguson
Councillor Carole-Ann Jones
Beverley Denby (Third Sector Advocate)

Absent

Councillor Thulani Molife
Councillor Mohammed Saghir
Councillor Roger Steel
Councillor Marcia Watson

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Steve Comb - Head of Children in Care
Robert Caswell - Programme Manager
Ken Lyon - Programme Manager
Nick Lee - Head of Access and Learning
Rav Kalsi - Senior Governance Officer
Richard Matthews - Parent Governor Representative
Tanith Davis - Governance Officer

56 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Mohammed Saghir – non Council business
Councillor Thulani Molife – other Council business

57 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

58 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2015 were agreed and signed by the chair.

59 WORK PROGRAMME WORKSHOP 2015/16

Rav Kalsi, Senior Governance Officer, presented the Report of the Head of Democratic Services and outlined the process for the workshop session. In order for the Committee to agree topics to scrutinise in the next municipal year, four senior

officers from Nottingham City Council were asked to provide an overview of their services, with particular reference to growth and areas of concern.

Children in Care

Steve Comb, Head of Children in Care delivered the first workshop and the following points were highlighted:

- a) There are currently 581 children in care;
- b) Nottingham City have 91.3 per 10,000 child population;
- c) The children in care live in Nottingham City Council and private run homes, with fostering families (both agency and Nottingham City Council) and some children are also placed into kin fostering;
- d) Many children in care will have experienced some neglect and/or abuse. As a result, attachment disorders can form;
- e) Nottingham City Council looks to establish permanence for children in care and start this pursuit through adoption.

The following areas were highlighted as topics for Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- i) Education provision for children in care
- ii) Adoption for children with complex needs, disabilities or from minority/ethnic backgrounds

The following areas were identified as scrutiny review topics:

- i) Kin fostering regulations;
- ii) Demographics for children in care;
- iii) Specialist skills for adoption/foster families;
- iv) Foster carers from different faiths and nationalities;

Major Programmes

Rob Caswell, Programme Manager outlined the work which is undertaken by Major Programmes, with a focus on school expansion and maintenance. The expansion of at a number of schools such as Rosslyn Park, Bluecoat Primary and Nottingham Academy are an example where colleagues in Major Programmes are progressing maintenance and expansion works to meet the increased demand of school places. Projections show that once these children reach secondary school, there will then be an issue with a shortage of places at secondary schools within the city. Schools which offer education from ages 3-19 are increasing.

The following item was highlighted as a topic for the main Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- i) The parameters around school expansion and the way in which the Council manages the expansion of schools in the city. The topic should focus on:
 - Timescales for expansions;
 - Future planning for place shortages;
 - Secondary school expansions.

Commercialism

Ken Lyon (Programme Manager) outlined the following 14 trading areas of interest for the Committee:

Adult provision
Royal Centre
Property Services
Catering and building cleaning
Highways
Car Parks
Enviro Energy
Leisure
Passenger transport
Museums
Commercial waste
Cemeteries and crematoriums
Markets
Garage services

Each of these areas currently has budget growth targets and investment is needed in some of the areas, in order to sustain growth. The 14 trading areas identified have a total turnover of £102.983 million and generate a total of £83.451 million. There are a number of areas which are self-sustaining, such as car parks, commercial waste and cemeteries and crematoriums.

The panel had a brief discussion and the following areas were identified as review topics:

- i) The wider impact of commercialism on services and the balance between delivering outcomes for citizens;
- ii) The commercialisation of garage services;
- iii) The commercialisation of cemeteries and crematoriums.

The following area was identified as a topic for Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- i) The commercial relationship between highways and sub-contractors

Access and Learning

Nick Lee, Head of Access and Learning delivered the final workshop to the Committee, outlining the problems schools face such as term times, behaviour and admissions. Nick Lee stated that many secondary schools within the city are now academies and are not run by Nottingham City Council and officers from within the Council will need to work with these schools, in order to address certain issues collaboratively.

The following area was identified as a topic for Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- i) The correlation between school attendance and behaviour and the impact on attainment;
- ii) Admissions and the lack of school places.

The following topic was identified as a review topic:

- i) Term times and holidays.

RESOLVED to

(1) schedule the following topics for the main Overview and Scrutiny Committee in 2015/16:

- Education provision for children in care;
- Adoption for children with complex needs, disabilities or from minority/ethnic backgrounds;
- The parameters around school expansion and the way in which the Council manages the expansion of schools in the city, with a focus on:
 - Timescales for expansions;
 - Future planning for place shortages;
 - Secondary school expansions.
- The commercial relationship between highways and sub-contractors ;
- The correlation between school attendance and behaviour and the impact on attainment;
- School admissions and the availability of school places.

(2) schedule the following topics as scrutiny review topics in 2015/16:

- Kin fostering regulations;
- Demographics for children in care;
- Specialist skills for adoption/foster families;
- Foster carers from different faiths and nationalities;
- The wider impact of commercialism on services and the balance between delivering outcomes for citizens;
- The commercialisation of garage services;
- The commercialisation of cemeteries and crematoriums.
- Term times and holidays.

(3) note that the following items have already been identified and agreed by the Committee to be considered in 2015/16:

- Citizen First/Customer Access Programme
- Good to Great Operational Plan
- Nottingham Growth Plan
- Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report and actions arising from Ofsted inspection in May 2014
- Flood Risk Mitigation Strategy
- Council Plan

60 **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The panel agreed to cancel the meeting scheduled for 8 April 2015.