

## 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.