

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, 5 September 2022

PRESENT: Councillor J Eagle (Chair)

Councillor(s): J Wallace, R Beadle, D Bradford, D Burnett,
L Caffrey, W Dick, D Duggan, T Graham, M Hall,
I Patterson, J Simpson and J Turner

APOLOGIES: Councillor(s): S Green, C Buckley, B Clelland, J Green and
K Wood

CR76 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

- (i) The minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 June 2022 were approved as a correct record.

CR77 MONITORING OF REVIEW OF LOCALITY WORKING

The Committee received a report providing an update on the implementation of locality working.

It was reported that since the last meeting of the OSC progress had been made on the methodology, principles and budget for locality work which has been signed off by Cabinet. It was also noted that the south of the borough has been identified as the first implementation area for the scheme with an implementation plan to start in the autumn.

The Committee were advised that a Project Lead had been appointed and that the Locality Strategic Lead had been appointed and would join the Council mid-September. It was also noted that a locality coordinator post is to be advertised.

From the report, the Committee were provided with a summary of community buildings that are expected to be used for locality working; these included Birtley Library, Wrekenton Community Centre and the Birtley Hub. It was also stated that strategic conversations have started with key partners such as the Primary Care Networks and DWP. It was highlighted that advice, information, and guidance resources have been identified to support casework in the South and are in place up until 31 March 2023.

The Committee were reminded of the aims of locality working, these were:

- a) Support the delivery of the Councils Thrive ambitions
- b) Reduce inequalities across our population
- c) Improve the standard of places where residents live

- d) Enable our communities to be more resilient
- e) More effective and efficient ways of working

It was also reported that it is proposed to take a report to CMT with a view to establishing a Programme Board led by CMT in place of the existing Locality Working Group.

The Committee were assured that the scheme commencing in the south of the borough was not a 'pilot'. It was also noted that locality working will evolve as demands change and arise; the Committee were advised that Gateshead's Health and Wellbeing Strategy underpins the work being done.

A question was asked as to how the funding works for locality working; officers advised that 12 months of funding is secure for work in the south with the intention of establishing locality work in the west being planned. The Committee questioned how the needs of the public were being considered, particularly in the west of the borough where needs vary greatly between towns. Officers advised that conversations have been taking place with partners in the south to understand the needs of residents; it was also highlighted that a framework is to be developed to maximise existing resources to meet the needs of communities.

The Committee were advised that they would receive regular progress updates on this matter; it was requested that a further update be delivered at the October meeting with further details on the staffing structure for locality working. The Committee also acknowledged there is a need to move away from universal service provision to providing targeted services. A discussion also took place on the potential boundary changes across Gateshead and how this may impact locality working; it was noted that services would need to be adaptable and to work with said changes as required.

RESOLVED:

- (i) The Committee noted the proposal for CMT to discuss the merit of establishing a Programme Board overseen by the Corporate Management Team.
- (ii) The Committee requested a further update on the progress of locality work in October with an emphasis on the staffing structure.

CR78 ANNUAL HEALTH AND SAFETY PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Committee received a report providing a review of health and safety performance for 2021/22 with an update on key priorities for 2022/23.

From the report, the Committee were provided with an overview of incident statistics; it was noted that there had been a rise in the total number of incidents reported across 2021/22 but that this could be attributed to the merging of the Gateshead Housing Company back into the Council. It was also reported that physical assaults accounted for the highest number of reported incidents.

The Committee were provided with a summary of the Council's sickness absence, it

was noted that sickness absence in 2021/22 had increased significantly compared to previous years; it was acknowledged that the pandemic had contributed to this rise. A comment was made stating that Covid related sickness absence should be reported separately to other types of sicknesses; it was confirmed that as part of the Council's performance management framework these are recorded separately. It was also reported that there had been no prosecutions or enforcement notices issued by the Health & Safety Executive across the reporting period however one Fee for Intervention had been issued; the Committee requested more information on this incident at a future meeting.

The Committee received an overview of the Council's priorities in terms of Health & Safety across 2022/23; these included reviewing the H&S Policy to address changes to legislation (including the Building Safety Act) and to ensure that the Council's new corporate health and safety action plan is implemented.

RESOLVED:

- (i) The Committee noted the information in the report.
- (ii) The Committee requested a further update on the HSE Fee for Intervention mentioned in the report outlining how the Council will work to prevent this happening again.

CR79 WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee received a report setting out the provisional work programme for the municipal year 2022/23.

RESOLVED:

- (i) The Committee noted the provisional work programme.
- (ii) The Committee noted that further reports on the work programme will be brought back to identify any additional policy issues for consideration.

Chair.....