

TITLE OF REPORT: Review of Annual Work Programme

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Summary

The report updates and seeks the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's views on the current position with regard to the annual work programme.

Background

1. At its meeting on 30 March 2015, the Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed its work programme based on the Council's policy framework. This work programme was then agreed by the Council as part of the policy planning process.
2. In line with the process agreed by all OSCs this OSC selected its case studies using a process designed to help make linkages between potential topics and the Council's policy framework.

Proposals

OSC Review Topics for 2016/17

3. In advance of the OSC agreeing its review topic for 2016-17, members of the OSC have been invited to identify any issues which may potentially be appropriate for a detailed review by 18 December 2015. It is proposed that those issues put forward by members are added to the list of potential review topics for consideration by the OSC at the start of the municipal year, unless the issue is already being, or would more appropriately be, dealt with through other processes within the Council. Members will be notified if this is the case and advised as to how their issue is being dealt with.

Monitoring of OSC Reviews

4. All of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee's have received feedback on the outcomes of the specific reviews undertaken by them during 2014-15. This Committee has received a monitoring report on the outcomes generated by its Review of Energy Management/Fuel Poverty on 2 November 2015 and will receive a further monitoring report on 18 April 2016.

Case Studies

5. Case studies have been included within OSC work programmes to provide an additional means of examining specific issues of concern/carrying out more detailed work on a particular topic/measure the impact of a particular OSC's review recommendations over a specific period of time.
6. The case study for 2015/16 is:-
 - Housing Estate Management (14 Sept 2015)
 - Access to Swimming (25 Jan 2016)
7. Each OSC has identified specific issues to be considered through the case study method and it was agreed that in view of the timing of case studies within the 2014-15 work programmes that feedback on their effectiveness be sought during its work programme review in 2015/16.
8. During 2014/15 the OSC considered the following case studies :-

Dog Fouling (23 June 2014)

The OSC focused on:-

- the level of and impacts of dog fouling
- how Waste Services and Grounds Maintenance (WS&GM) are responding to the problem and reviewing how the service can be provided differently.

Having examined the issues the OSC

- Noted that dog fouling is very emotive and at times frustrating issue which is high on the public's agenda. It is a problem which cannot be solved by one individual body but needs to be a collaborative effort and offers great opportunity for close working with partners and community and voluntary groups. Dog fouling issues have to be prioritised against the many other demands on enforcement teams' time and reduced resources.

In light of the above, the OSC indicated requested that further information be presented to Committee during the course of its work programme and it was suggested that information be included in the OSC's six monthly performance reporting.

Metro Centre Recruitment Model (15 Sept 2014)

The OSC focused on:-

- The Metrocentre Recruitment Partnership, context and the background to the Council's partnership approach to working with intu Metrocentre and Jobcentre Plus.
- The development of the partnership and its model to maximise opportunities for local people.
- Outcomes and lessons learnt from the development of the model and partnership.
- Case studies of Metrocentre employers who have utilised the recruitment support and to local people who have been assisted to make the transition from benefits into sustainable employment

Having examined the issues the OSC :-

- Sought to understand further the impact / benefits of the model to the Metro Centre and the Committee was pleased to note that since the Metrocentre Recruitment Team commenced they had handled approximately 1000 vacancies per year and around 90% of these converted to job starts and between 55 – 60% were filled by Gateshead residents. The Committee noted that formal monitoring of those gaining long term employment stopped in 2009. However, the Committee was informed that support is being given to individuals who have been long term unemployed with Gateshead College to assist them back into work and this was working very well.
- The Committee raised issues about whether young people not in education , employment or training were encouraged to apply for vacancies; how young people could gain access to the Metrocentre Academy; access to the Metrocentre from rural parts of Gateshead; turnover of staff and whether the model could be used in the private sector
- The Committee learned that young people not in education, employment or training were encourage to apply for appropriate opportunities at the Metro Center and a lot of vacancies in the Metrocentre are ideal for young people. Subway average employee age is between 16 and 35 years and they gain experience and NVQ Qualifications. In relation to access to the Metrocentre Academy, the Committee was informed that people can be referred through Jobcentre plus to Gateshead College. Under the Gateshead work programme employers try to employ people from Gateshead.
- The Committee also suggested that access to the Metrocentre from the rural parts of Gateshead could be improved if a bus (not a commercial bus company) could drop off at the Metrocentre at 9am and leave at 5pm for outside villages. The Committee was informed that bus companies work closely with the Metrocentre and they have a Transport Manager and the next steps would be refined.
- As far as staff turnover was concerned, the Committee was informed that some people are happy with part time work or seasonal work and others who want a long term contract are working with Gateshead College. Discussions on training offered takes place with employers. It was confirmed that this model could be used in any employment site and there were various plans for the future for a proactive rather than reactive service.

In light of the above, the OSC asked that its comments be taken into account when the Economic & Housing Growth reviewed the operation of the Metrocentre partnership model.

Olympic Legacy (10 Nov 2014)

The case study focused on the following areas:

- The physical activity levels of adults in Gateshead, both pre and post London 2012, based on Sport England's Active People Survey
- The investment Gateshead has received from the Places, People, Play initiative and the impact at a local level, as a legacy from London 2012
- The views of the two local sports clubs and how they have benefitted from the legacy of London 2012 (Tyne United Rowing Club and Fighting Chance Foundation Boxing Club).
- Current programmes aimed at increasing participation levels in Gateshead, supported or funded by Gateshead Council

Having examined the issues the OSC :-

- noted the evidence of a rising trend of levels of participation in sport by adults aged 16yrs plus. At a local level Gateshead had seen a 5% increase between 2005/06 and 2012/13 in adults taking part in at least 30 minutes of sport per week and a 6% rise in those taking part in 90 minutes of sport per week. This was significantly greater than other Tyne and Wear local authority areas, regional and national averages. Leisure facilities within the borough had also seen a 10% rise in attendance figures since the hosting of the Olympic Games.
- queried how each of the local sports clubs could be sustained financially in the future and received information that the clubs look to access grants wherever possible but also look to increase other community and sport use of the buildings.
- suggested that further advertising of what the clubs can offer may help to build on the clubs' aspirations and their sustainability.
- noted that whilst the Olympic and Paralympic Games have helped to increase participation though increasing sport profiles, it is more the elite clubs and athletes that have greater success in attracting high level funding.

In light of the above, the OSC indicated that it was satisfied that there has been an effective legacy from the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Gateshead and agreed that it should receive further reports regarding Gateshead's approach to increasing sport and physical activity levels within Gateshead.

Recommendations

9. The Committee is asked to

- (i) Note that any issues identified by members of the OSC as potential review topics by 18 December 2015 have been included in the list of review topics to be considered by the OSC at the start of the municipal year unless such issues are being or would more appropriately be dealt with via other Council processes.

- (ii) Give its views on the review monitoring process carried out so far.
- (iii) Give its views on the effectiveness of the case studies carried out in 2014/15.