Briefing note



To: Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee Date: 7th September 2016

Subject: Outstanding Issues Report

1 Purpose of the Note

1.1 To inform Members of the approach to be taken on progress, outcomes and responses to recommendations and substantial actions made by the Scrutiny Board.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are recommended to:
 - 1) Note the attached outstanding issues at Appendix 1
 - 2) Consider the suggestions from members of the public at Appendix 2 and whether to add them to the appropriate scrutiny work programme.

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 When recommendations and actions are made following a scrutiny meeting, they are circulated to the relevant Cabinet Member and officer, and recorded on a recommendations tracker.
- 3.2 The purpose of this report is to bring to the Committee's attention the responses received from Cabinet Members and officers in regard to recommendations and actions from previous meetings.
- 3.3 Once a response has been received or an action dealt with, it will be removed from this report and kept in the full recommendations tracker. The complete tracker can be viewed by contacting the Scrutiny Team on the details below.
- 3.4 At the start of this year, the opportunity was introduced for members of the public to suggest topics that members of the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee could consider adding to the work programme. The guidance explains that while there are no hard and fast rules about what makes a good topic for Scrutiny to investigate, only issues that Coventry residents are concerned about will be considered, and particularly if the issue affects the whole city. It explains that local issues may be better discussed with ward councillors and that other processes are in place to deal with complaints about services.
- 3.5 Suggestions received since this process was introduced are included at Appendix 2. In considering whether an issue should be included in the scrutiny work programme, factors for Members could include: whether the topic is appropriate for scrutiny to consider or whether it is better dealt with in another way; how important the issue is in comparison to other priorities on the scrutiny work programme; whether the issue relates to something already on the work programme and could be incorporated in this; at what point in the year the issue would be best considered; and which scrutiny board is best placed to consider the issue.

Gennie Holmes Scrutiny Co-ordinator gennie.holmes@coventry.gov.uk 024 7683 1172

Appendix 1 - Outstanding Issues

| Meeting Date | Agenda Item | Cabinet Member/ Responsible Officer | Rec', Action or Information | Recommendations/ Actions | Officer contact | Response/ Status |
|-----------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---|
| 13th July 16 | Police, Crime and Community Safety | Chair of Police, Crime and Community Safety Partnership (Cllr A Khan) | R | (1) The scope of the planned review of the Coventry Police Crime and Community Safety Partnership Board be acknowledged and supported and the Committee's concerns relating to ensuring that there is clarity about the future role of members and a clear accountability of organisations receiving funding be taken into account during the review. (2) The performance data detailed in Appendix 9 be noted and for future performance reports information be included on the impact of Police and Crime Commissioner spend and outcomes on priority areas. | Craig Hickin Gennie Holmes | Briefing note sent to Cllr A Khan 10/8/16 |
| 13th July 16 | Police, Crime and Community Safety | Cabinet Member Policing and Equalities | R | The Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities be recommended to receive a report on performance in relation to hidden crimes and convictions at a future Cabinet Member meeting | Gennie Homes | Briefing note sent to Cllr A Khan 10/8/16 |
| 13th July 16 | Police, Crime and Community Safety | | A | A progress report on the measures to reduce Female Genital Mutilation be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee. | Gennie Homes | Added to the work programme for a date to be decided COMPLETE |
| 13th July 16 | Police, Crime and Community Safety | | A | Members be encouraged to respond to the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner's questionnaire regarding his planned priorities. | Gennie Homes | 14/7/16 Link to the consultation circulated to attendees of the Board COMPLETE |
| 13th July 16 | Council Plan Performance Report 2015/16 | | A | For future reports simple information be included on the reduction in funding imposed on the Council and the impact that this has had on performance. | Si Chun Lam/ Andy Baker | It will be considered for the next report. |

| 13th July 16 | Council Plan Performance Report 2015/16 | A | The minutes and report from the meeting of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee held on 24th February, 2016 related to 'Coventry – A Top Ten City' be circulated to members. | Gennie Homes | 13/7/16 Link to the page on Modern.gov circulated to attendees of the Board COMPLETE |
|--------------|---|---|--|-----------------|---|
| 13th July 16 | Outside Bodies - reporting Arrangements 2016-17 | A | The minutes of the meetings of the Coventry and Solihull Waste Disposal Company Limited Shareholders' Panel be circulated to members | Gennie Homes | The minutes of these meetings are not publicly available. Refer to Finance and Cor0porate Services Scrutiny Board (1) regarding contribution to Council income. |
| 13th July 16 | Scrutiny Work Programme 2016/17 | A | The Committee noted that the results of the Task and Finish Group on European Issues would be reported back to Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee, but retain the membership agreed at the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3), plus Cllr Lancaster | Gennie Homes | Added to the work programme for a date to be decided COMPLETE |

Appendix 2

- 1) To debate / investigate the rise of the extreme right wing in Coventry. In the past 3 months, 2 far right groups have visited Coventry (EDL and Britain First), we would like the Council to scrutinise why this is happening and what they can do to address the root cause. The council recently issued a statement on the rise of hate crime and committed itself to addressing it, this scrutiny will enable a debate to be had as to what action(s) it will take to support Coventry residents.
- 2) The upper precinct and Market Way/Smithford Way precinct areas aren't very nice, and they really need a makeover get rid of the clutter and get a team together to think up cost effective ideas to improve presentation and appeal. (contributor has offered to be involved)
- 3) Review regularity of ward forums. Once regularity is restored, advertise and or review how advertising the ward forums can gain a better input of attendees to said forum. Banners outside the actual venue, with upcoming dates... Engage the local radio stations to broadcast information... Etc. Advertising the dates and venues in the local newspaper... And stop relying so much on the technology that is hindering people to actually find this information out.. ie. Council website. You make plans, tell people to engage, it's pretty hard to engage. So people don't and they become apathetic to what's going on around them. Hence small voter turn-out and the small margins that gain power to the elected.
- 4) Scrutiny required with reference to the permission for Finham Park 2 to build a free school within 2 miles of Tile Hill Wood and Woodlands Academy, when it was known both were struggling to achieve required intake numbers, due in part as well to the opening of Seva and Eden schools, and with Woodlands also under pressure financially. This, I believe, ensured one of the two schools would close. This is a city wide issue if further free schools are allowed. Transparency and accountability for decisions made are paramount going forward, to ensure this situation does not repeat itself.