

PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

22 October 2015

PRESENT – Councillor Carson (in the Chair); Councillors Baldwin, Cossins, Donoghue, Lyonette and MR Nicholson. (6)

APOLOGIES – Councillors Grundy, L Hughes, KE Kelly, Wright and York. (5)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillor Wallis. (1)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Steve Petch, Place Strategy Manager and Lead Officer, Miriam Davidson, Director Public Health, Sharon Raine, Head of Organisational Planning, Pam Ross, Licensing, Parking and Trading Standards Manager, Carolyn Pistellato, Parking, Processing and Appeals Co-Ordinator and Karen Graves, Democratic Officer.

P17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interests reported at the meeting.

P18. MINUTES – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meetings of this Scrutiny Committee held on 3 and 17 September 2015.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be approved as correct records.

P19. MATTERS ARISING – There were no matters arising.

P20. WORK PROGRAMME 2015/16 – The Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the work programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during the current Municipal Year.

It was also emphasised that the work programme was a rolling programme and any Member of this Scrutiny could request an item to be included provided that a Quad of Aims had been submitted to the Scrutiny Committee prior to ensure that it contributed to the strategic aims of the Council.

The submitted report outlined the Work Programme and requested Members to reconsider it to accommodate further issues that needed to be included.

The Lead Officer referred to the schedule in the submitted report and provided Members with an updated position in relation to each individual item.

RESOLVED – (a) That the current status of the Work Programme be noted.

(b) That the Work Programme be updated to reflect the decisions of this Scrutiny Committee.

P21. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT 2014 – PUBLIC HEALTH: A SHARED AGENDA – The Director of Public Health submitted a report (previously circulated) presenting the Director of Public Health’s Annual Report 2014 entitled ‘A shared Agenda’ and in doing so noted the partnership working necessary to tackle the causes of health inequalities and help prevent men and women experiencing disadvantage over the course of their lives. A PowerPoint presentation accompanied the report.

Particular reference was made to the link between health inequalities and social inequalities and how action was needed across all the social determinants of health e.g. housing, education, employment, poverty, over a person’s lifetime. It was explained that the social determinants are the conditions in which people in Darlington are ‘born, grow, live, work and age’.

Details were supplied of the work the Council’s public health team was undertaking alongside other Council departments, NHS and other public sector partners, community and voluntary partners and the private sector in order to shape local services, tackle health differences in communities and influence the wider or social determinants of health.

Members were informed there was to be a focus on smoking cessation in pregnant women through the Baby Clear programme, a Tees Valley Oral Health Strategy was to be developed and key lines of enquiry were to be shared with partners regarding child obesity and what could be done to prevent this.

Discussion ensued on the life expectancy gap between men and women in the most and least deprived Wards, 12.4 and 8.1 years respectively and the commonest causes of death and health inequalities for male and females. An early death is determined as being under 75 years of age and the commonest cause of death for men was circulatory related disease (heart disease and stroke) and for women it was cancer.

Particular references were made to the role of primary care in detecting early illness and how lifestyle factors affect early deaths and the need to promote balanced diets and more physical activity.

Scrutiny Committee was also advised of the effects of changes in alcohol use, the results of a survey undertaken, during summer, with the ambulance service and paramedics by Balance which highlighted the number of alcohol related assaults and the important links that had been established between the Public Health and Licensing Teams.

The Marmot review undertaken in 2010 outlined the importance of addressing inequalities in early years and giving children the best start in life by ensuring they are prepared for skills development, employment and work as an accumulation of positive and negative influences have an effect on health and wellbeing.

Members were informed that A Shared Agenda was based on the Dahlgren and Whitehead model with the role of the NHS, while important, being small in tackling health and equality and that there were challenges ahead when resources were being restricted.

The Director of Public Health outlined her recommendations for 2015/16 and in doing so stated that investment in prevention was needed to tackle some of the issues.

RESOLVED – (a) That the thanks of this Committee be extended to the director of public Health for her informative and interesting presentation.

(b) That the Annual Report be noted.

P22. CAR PARKING REGULATION ANNUAL REPORT – Pursuant to Minute P11/Sep/15, The Licensing, Parking and Trading Standards Manager gave a verbal account of the Civic Parking Enforcement (CPE) Annual Report accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation.

It was stated that CPE commenced in Darlington on 31 December 2010 in accordance with the Traffic Management Act 2004 and covered the whole of the Borough except the A1(M) and A66 which were the responsibility of the Highway Authority.

CPE was compatible with the Local Transport Plan (LTP) and aimed to prevent unsafe and dangerous parking with the ultimate aim being to achieve 100 per cent compliance and zero penalty charge notices being issued. Members were advised that Civil Enforcement Officers (CEO's) work to stringent guidelines set by the Traffic Management Act which can be viewed on the Council's website, there was no discretion to ensure consistency and CEO's were not given targets or incentives for the issue of penalties. The two levels of PCN's are reduced by 50 per cent if paid within 14 days and both can be appealed. Income from penalty notices finances enforcement and appeals systems, where discretion can be applied. Off street parking charges are used to promote LTP objectives and on street charges for the provision and maintenance of off street parking, highway, environmental and road improvements.

Details were supplied of the various roles of Officers involved in delivering CPE together with the various types and locations of parking provision available in the Borough.

Reference was made to the amount of PCN's issued annually since its introduction and the number and outcome of appeals lodged within the same period.

Particular reference was made to the income received for the periods April 2013 to March 2014 and April 2014 to March 2015 and the expenditure on highways, road maintenance and car park repairs during the same periods.

Parking initiatives included the three hours for two offer in car parks, increased maximum stay in Grange Road, multi-storey car park construction and other highway improvements.

The Cabinet Member with the Leisure and Local Environment Portfolio informed Committee that the Car Parking Strategy would be refreshed once the multi-storey car park opened and the East Street Car Park was the cheapest but most underused car park in the town

RESOLVED – (a) That the thanks of this Committee be extended to the Licensing, Parking and Trading Standards Manager for her informative and interesting presentation.

(b) That Place Scrutiny Committee continues to monitor the Car Parking Strategy.

P23. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT QUARTER 2 – The Head of Organisational Planning gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Performance Management Framework which included statistical data around the key performance indicators that were relevant to this Scrutiny Committee. It was stated most of the information for Place Scrutiny Committee were produced nationally and therefore mostly historical and that Darlington tended to perform better than the North East average.

Members noted that in relation to Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) Claimants, Darlington was the same as the rest of the North East and mapped the England rate and, whilst there were still gaps between all Wards, the total continued to fall.

Particular reference was made to the creation of 126 apprenticeships for Darlington residents that had been achieved during 2014/15 and the Darlington Partnership looking to include other service industries for 2015/16.

Concerns were expressed on indicators relating to the 16 per cent decline in Town Centre footfall as the national decline was only 2.9 per cent.

Discussion ensued on Darlington tending to have a large number of service sector jobs which are generally low paid and the change in Darlington Wards affecting data information.

RESOLVED – (a) That the thanks of this Scrutiny Committee be extended to the Head of Organisational Planning for her informative presentation.

(b) That the Performance Indicators be received.
