

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE****10TH JUNE 2014**

1. **Present:** Councillors Ennis (Chair), P. Birkinshaw, Brook, G. Carr, Clarke, M. Dyson, Franklin, Frost, Hayward, Mitchell, Morgan, M. Sheard, Tattersall and Unsworth together with co-opted members Pauline Gould and Joan Whitaker

Apologies for absence were received from Mr W. A. Haigh and Ms K. Morritt in accordance with Regulation 7(6) of the Parent Governor Representatives (England) Regulations 2001.

2. **Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest.

3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 8th April 2014**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8th April 2014 were approved as a true and accurate record.

4. **Overview and Scrutiny arrangements and Work Programme 2014/14: Corporate Performance Framework**

Michael Potter, Head of Service, Organisational & Workforce Development, Performance & Partnerships Improvement, Human Resources, Performance, Partnerships & Communications gave an overview of the function and purpose of the Corporate Plan Performance report.

The Corporate Plan Performance report is produced quarterly and the report reviews progress against the three Corporate Plan priorities and eighteen outcome statements. Performance is measured through an agreed dataset of indicators and the data used to inform this is provided by services along with a brief commentary to explain the performance.

It was highlighted that the Corporate Plan Performance report will be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee quarterly, after it has been to Cabinet, as it is a useful tool which Scrutiny can use to challenge and discuss performance issues and also to develop its work programme for 2014/15 and that of the Task and Finish Groups.

Last year each of the Task and Finish Groups (TFGs) looked at two topics each. For this municipal year, each Task and Finish Group will have one proactive item to look at initially, leaving an opportunity for a further topic to be examined later in the year. The Chair pointed out that the TFGs will have the opportunity to do the

'spadework' and the freedom to tackle areas for improvement on behalf of the Council.

Members proceeded to ask questions as follows:

- (i) Will social care be covered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as it appears that this important element has been omitted from the report.

It was explained that the report highlighted the statutory elements of scrutiny's role and its specific powers relating to the scrutiny of health services and crime and disorder. It was confirmed that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee can, and will, cover all elements of social care where there is an area of concern.

- (ii) Given the limited officer time to support scrutiny, how can we ensure that questions raised on behalf of scrutiny are answered?

It was pointed out that a dedicated admin officer has been appointed to support the scrutiny and member development role, which will free up officer time. Regular liaison meetings between Scrutiny Chairs and Task and Finish Group Lead Members are being arranged.

- (iii) Will the work of TFGs on topics such as smoking, be revisited to check that recommendations have been taken on board?

The Chair reiterated that part of the role is to re-examine Cabinet responses to previous work of the TFGs to ensure that recommendations have been implemented and there will be an opportunity to bring topics back into the full Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ensure that this is the case. Members were also reminded that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee retains the power to 'call-in' Cabinet decisions before they are implemented.

In terms of specific topics, the Task and Finish Group work on smoking and on growing the economy will be placed on the agenda for a future Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting. It was pointed out that the Corporate Performance Report gives the year end position on jobs in the Borough.

- (iv) How can Area Councils feed issues in to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee?

It was highlighted that there is an opportunity for Area Councils to ask the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to look into issues which affect two or more wards on their behalf. Equally, Area Councils are able to scrutinise issues themselves. Area Council Chairs meet on a regular basis and closer liaison with Scrutiny is a learning curve for everyone.

Michael Potter was thanked for his attendance and contribution.