

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
 26 NOVEMBER 2015**

PRESENT:

Councillors Mrs A M Newton (Vice-Chairman), C J T H Brewis, Mrs J Brockway, M Brookes, P M Dilks, R L Foulkes, A G Hagues, A J Jesson, Mrs M J Overton MBE, R B Parker, C L Strange, Mrs C A Talbot and R Wootten

Councillors: attended the meeting as observers

Officers in attendance:-

Simon Evans (Health Scrutiny Officer), Tracy Johnson (Senior Scrutiny Officer), Nigel West (Head of Democratic Services), Richard Wills (Executive Director for Environment and Economy) and Catherine Wilman (Democratic Services Officer)

32 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

Apologies were received from Councillors A Bridges, R J Hunter-Clarke, C E H Marfleet, P J O'Connor and Mr P Thompson (Church Representatives).

33 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No interests were declared.

34 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON 29 OCTOBER 2015

Reference was made to the progress made by the Scrutiny Review Group (Minute 31 refers) and Members raised concern that the findings from the Group, and the review document itself, had not been shared with the Committee. The final review document would be considered at Full Council on 18 December, 2015 in the first instance.

Officers assured Members that the Committee would have an important role in overseeing the recommendations from the review after it had been received by Full Council.

RESOLVED

That the minutes be approved and signed by the Vice-Chairman as a correct record.

35 CONSIDERATION OF CALL-INS

No call-ins had been received.

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There were no proposals for scrutiny reviews.

37 CONSIDERATION OF COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTIONS

No Councillor Call for Actions had been received.

38 LINCOLNSHIRE BROADBAND PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Committee received a presentation from Steve Brookes, Lincolnshire Broadband Programme Manager which provided a status update on the broadband programme since the last update received on 18 June 2015.

During the presentation, the following points were noted:

- 83% of homes passed for broadband were running at superfast speeds;
- To explain the uptake of broadband, an example was given that of a typical community of 460 homes, which would require one cabinet, 260 would receive superfast broadband and approximately 200 would not because they were located too far away from the cabinet. These homes would be picked up at a later stage in the roll-out programme;
- The cost to the scheme in phase one was £255 per premises passed for broadband;
- Phase two, which would tackle more rural areas, would be more expensive at £752 per premises passed. Each cabinet cost £28,000 to install, so more premises per cabinet were required to ensure better value for money;
- On completion, the project would provide Lincolnshire with better coverage than comparable rural counties such as North Yorkshire or Norfolk;
- Pole mounted cabinets had been trialled in North Yorkshire and Suffolk. The Council would attempt to persuade BT to use pole mounted cabinets more as the Council wanted good value for money from BT;
- Quickline had provided broadband to certain premises in the West Lindsey area on behalf of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and Officers were trying to find out which properties they had supplied to ensure all homes were covered;
- Residents in Saxilby had seen problems with 4G technology interfering with FreeView, however it was reported that a filter could be fitted, free of charge to properties affected which would alleviate this;
- Customers using ADSL technology had a slower service now, in certain areas and customers with different ADSL suppliers (eg TalkTalk), however this was entirely a BT issue and Steve Brookes would be meeting with Victoria Atkins MP for Louth and Horncastle to try and resolve these issues. It was also suggested that a letter be written on behalf of the Committee to MPs highlighting the issue;

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- The Government had stated it was a legal right for everyone to have broadband of at least 10Mbps and new, fixed, wireless technology was the answer for this.

The Committee thanked Steve Brookes for his work on the project on behalf of their constituents.

RESOLVED

That the presentation be noted.

39 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

Councillor Marc Jones, Executive Councillor for Finance and Property was present to discuss defibrillators and winter pressures, issues which were raised at a previous meeting of the Committee.

At present there were no defibrillators available for use at County Offices or other County Council buildings. It was also noted that County Offices did not have a deaf alert system. The Committee discussed, with Councillor Jones, the logistics and pre-requisites of installing defibrillators such as:

- How many should be in each building;
- Where should they be situated to be most useful;
- Who would service them;
- How much would they cost including servicing;
- Would the Council need a policy to clarify the above before purchasing them.

It was widely felt that progress could often be halted by the need to write policies and procedures, when the appropriate action could just be taken and resolved.

Councillor Jones agreed to note the points made by the Committee and report back to Members, in writing, before the next meeting.

i) Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

The Committee discussed the next meeting on Monday, 21 December, 2015 and whether, with no additional items scheduled, it should be cancelled. This sparked a debate regarding the purpose of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and its role within the Scrutiny Function. Members were reminded that the Committee would have a key role within scrutiny once the outcome of the Scrutiny Review had been implemented. The Committee agreed that a discussion of the Scrutiny Review should be added to the agenda for its meeting on 21 December 2015.

In addition to this, the Committee also wished to see the Meeting of Scrutiny Committee Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen re-formed as it would discuss the cross-cutting issues that overlapped with the Committee.

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For its meeting on 28 January 2016, the Committee agreed to add to the following to the agenda:

- Outcomes and Actions from the Review of Scrutiny;
- The Boundary Review; and
- The Budget.

It was highlighted that there had been national changes to rules concerning FGM (Female Genital Mutilation). It was agreed that updates regarding the issue should be sent to the Chairmen of Scrutiny Committees to make Councillors aware.

ii) Adults Scrutiny Committee

There were no changes to the items listed for 9 December 2015.

The Committee was looking to schedule an item on the contribution of Adult Care to Winter Pressures at its January meeting.

The Committee was also looking to schedule items on IT Support for Adult Care and Adult Care Workforce Development at future meetings.

iii) Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

There was one amendment to the work programme: the report on the potential closure of Saltfleetby Primary School had been deferred from the meeting scheduled for 4 March 2016, to the meeting on 15 April 2016, with the Executive Councillor decision now being taken on 29 April 2016.

iv) Community and Public Safety Scrutiny Committee

There was one amendment to the work programme. A report on Neighbourhood Policing had been brought forward from the meeting scheduled for 13 April 2016 to the meeting on 13 January 2016.

The Committee met on 25 November 2015, where Members had considered the Executive report on the contract award for the libraries service. The Executive would be asked to approve the award of a contract to Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL). Following a lengthy discussion on the report, the Committee unanimously supported the recommendations to the Executive with a number of comments put forward for consideration.

v) Economic Scrutiny Committee

There were a few amendments to the work programme. A report on "Agreement to participate in a pan-county financial instrument which provides finance to businesses" had been added to the agenda for the meeting scheduled for 8 December 2015. This report was for pre-decision scrutiny with a decision being taken by Councillor Colin Davie on 8 January 2016.

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In addition, a verbal update on the outcomes from the Comprehensive Spending Review had been added to the agenda for 8 December 2015.

The report on the "Agreement of EU Funding bids for schemes that meet the Council's priorities had been deferred from the meeting on 8 December, to the meeting on 12 January 2016. The report on EU Funding Update which was listed for 12 January 2016 has been removed.

vi) Environmental Scrutiny Committee/Flood and Drainage Management Scrutiny Committee

The Environmental Scrutiny Committee's agenda, did not include a progress report on Low Carbon Heating, but did include two other items: an item on Fly Tipping Enforcement, being led by North Kesteven District Council; and an item on the Energy from Waste Plant, which was currently seeing some downtime for routine maintenance.

There was a full agenda for the Flood and Drainage Management Scrutiny Committee on 11 December 2015. The item on Raising Sea Banks would now include a paper from Peter Bateson, Chief Executive of the Witham Fourth District Internal Drainage Board.

The February meeting of the Committee would now include an item on the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (GLLEP) Coastal Vision and Water Management and a possible item on the impact of devolution on flood and drainage management.

vii) Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire

16 December 2015

The one change to the programme on 16 December was that it would not be possible to receive a general Update from South Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group. This was because South Lincolnshire CCG had not yet made a permanent appointment to the role of Accountable Officer. This item would be rescheduled to a future meeting.

Boston West Hospital – The Chairman emphasised that the reason for including Boston West Hospital, operated by Ramsay Healthcare, as part of the Committee's work programme was that Boston West Hospital undertook a significant amount of NHS-funded health care and also produced a Quality Account each year in accordance with the legal requirement.

CAMHS – There were two CAMHS items on our December agenda, and Allan Kitt, from South West Lincolnshire CCG, the lead commissioner for mental health, and John Brewin, the Chief executive of Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust had been invited to attend for these items.

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20 January 2016

There were two significant items on the Committee's 20 January, 2016 agenda.

Firstly, the Committee would be considering the Cancer Strategy. Cancer is also a key element of Theme 3 of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which included a priority to reduce mortality rates from cancer and improve the take up of screening programmes.

Furthermore, United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust regularly missed most of the nine Constitutional Standards for Cancer, although other hospitals used by Lincolnshire residents such as Peterborough City Hospital performed much better. The item in January was from a commissioner perspective and the Committee would be seeking assurances that patients, wherever they lived in Lincolnshire, could access cancer treatment and care in line with the nine constitutional standards.

The second item of importance in January was the Lincolnshire Recovery Programme, where the Committee would be seeking contributions from NHS England and Trust Development Authority on how they were supporting both commissioners and providers in Lincolnshire to improve across a range of services.

Industrial Action by Junior Doctors

Finally, strikes by junior doctors had been called on three dates: 1 December 8am - 2 December 8am – emergency care only; 8 December, 8am to 5pm – full walkout; and 16 December, 8am to 5pm – full walkout. The local NHS were making plans, and the Chairman stressed that ULHT's A&E departments would remain open on these dates, but planned operations and outpatient appointments would be cancelled. The Chairman understood that there would be media releases, which would emphasise that patients should only use A&E if it is a genuine emergency.

viii) Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee

There was no change to the work programme.

Following a question, it was confirmed that there was no extra capacity on gritting routes. If new routes needed to be added, then some would have to be removed in order to accommodate them.

ix) Value for Money Scrutiny Committee

There were no changes to the work programme. Comments from the discussion of the Serco contract would be forwarded onto the Executive.

RESOLVED

1. That the content of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee work programme, as detailed at Appendix A to the report, be approved;

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2. That the work programmes from the Council's other Overview and Scrutiny Committees, as detailed at Appendix B to the report, be approved;
3. That the Working Group activity, as detailed at Appendix C to the report, be noted;
4. That the Forward Plan of Key Decisions from 1 December 2015, as detailed at Appendix D to the report, be noted.

The meeting closed at 12.20 pm