

Executive Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of Executive Scrutiny Committee was held on Tuesday, 23rd July, 2019.

Present: Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley(Chairman), Cllr Chris Clough(Vice-Chair), Cllr Chris Barlow, Cllr Julia Cherrett, Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Evaline Cunningham, Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Lynn Hall, Cllr Tony Hampton, Cllr Paul Kirton, Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Norma Stephenson O.B.E, Cllr Laura Tunney, Cllr Paul Weston, Nora Moffat, Peter Snowden, V Vacancy

Officers: Ian Coxon, Tony Montague, Craig Willows, Judy Trainer, Marianne Sleeman (DCE)

Also in attendance:

Apologies: Cllr Matthew Vickers

ESC 9/19 **Evacuation Procedure**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and the evacuation procedure was noted.

ESC 10/19 **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Cherrett declared a none prejudicial interest in respect of the agenda item 6 Councillor Call for Action - Obstructive and Illegal Parking Around Whitehouse Primary School

ESC 11/19 **Minutes from the Executive Scrutiny Committee meeting which was held on the 25th June 2019**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Executive Scrutiny Committee held on 25 June 2019.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Executive Scrutiny Committee be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

ESC 12/19 **Council Plan - Annual Report 2018/19**

Members considered the Council Plan Annual Report 2018/19.

The Committee noted the Council had worked closely with interested organisations on a range of initiatives in Country Parks including:

- Billingham Environmental Link project at Cowpen Bewley.
- Sunshine Sign (sole trader, working with children with sensory losses) at Billingham Beck.
- Missing Piece (offering various services) at Wynyard.

Members who taken part in the Energy Switch had commented that it was a valuable initiative.

Members requested feedback on the new Corporate Parenting Board and the Our Family Strategy for children in and leaving our care.

RESOLVED that the Annual Report and discussion be noted and actioned as appropriate.

**ESC
13/19**

Medium Term Financial Plan Outturn - March 2019

Members considered the report that focused on the financial performance and position of the Council at the end of 2018/19 financial year and provided an updated on the Medium Term Financial Plan, as at 31 March 2019.

The key issues discussed were as follows:

- Adults and Health - Members noted the lower than budgeted expenditure on residential and community care packages and questioned whether this was due to lack of take up or delays in the system. Officers were not aware of any delays and commented this was a saving across a very large budget area and expenditure could be variable across the year.
- Dedicated Schools Grant – High Needs Block – It was confirmed that the Recovery Plans related to revenue only.

RESOLVED that the Medium Term Financial Plan, current level of fund balances and revised Capital Programme be noted.

**ESC
14/19**

Councillor Call for Action - Obstructive and Illegal Parking Around Whitehouse Primary School

Members considered the Councillor Call for Action – Obstructive and Illegal Parking Around Whitehouse Primary School, submitted by Councillor Julia Cherrett and Councillor David Minchella.

Members were in support of the Call for Action and the following key issues were discussed:

- There was a need to find innovative solutions to this problem and several Members cited solutions that has been implemented in their own wards
- Members acknowledged that the problem of inconsiderate parking around schools was a challenging issue and that every case was unique and different solutions/ approach were needed
- One Councillor suggested that a walking bus from a nearby supermarket could be a possible solution in this case
- Members requested an update on progress of actions relating to the previous scrutiny review of school parking undertaking in 2016. The Scrutiny Officer advised that a progress update would be presented to the October meeting of the Crime and Disorder Select Committee

RESOLVED the Councillor Call for Action be approved and referred to the Crime and Disorder Select Committee for consideration at their meeting in October 2019.

**ESC
15/19** **Statutory Forward Plan - 1st July - 31st October 2019**

Members considered the Council's Statutory Forward Plan for 1 July – 31 October 2019.

RESOLVED that the Statutory Forward Plan be noted.

**ESC
16/19** **Select Committee Chairs' Updates**

Members considered the Select Committee Chairs' Updates.

In addition to the updates, the following issues were highlighted:

- Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee – The Chair highlighted changes to repeat prescriptions ordering which would be implemented from September 2019. More information had been requested in response to significant concerns raised
- Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee – Following an unannounced CQC inspection of West Lane Hospital, the Trust was now required to undertake some immediate and urgent actions to address concerns. It also meant that admissions to wards at West Lane Hospital were temporarily suspended. The Chair had requested further information about what was happening to admissions in the meantime
- Place Select Committee - A further update on the Task and Finish review of disabled parking would be presented to a future meeting of the Committee as a number of the recommendations were still to be fully implemented

RESOLVED that the updates be noted.

**ESC
17/19** **Chair's Update and Executive Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2019 - 2020**

The Chair had no updates to provide at this time.

It was noted the Scrutiny Review on Gambling carried out by Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee in 2018 was an excellent report and had been used nationally. It formed part of the evidence base for the Howard League's Commission on Crime and Problem Gambling, and had been well received by commissioners.

**ESC
18/19** **Scrutiny Developments**

Members were informed that an informal Chairs meeting had been arranged for September 2019.