

# Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee

18 June 2018

Present: Councillor J Allan  
Councillors A Austin, B Burdis, K Clark, N Craven,  
M Green, Janet Hunter, A McMullen, A Newman,  
P Oliver, J O'Shea, M Rankin and M Thirlaway

Church Representative  
Rev M Vine

Parent Governor Representative  
Mrs M Ord

Also in attendance  
Joanne Lee – Public Protection Manager  
Councillor B Pickard – Deputy Mayor  
Jacqueline Laughton - Head of Corporate Strategy  
Craig Anderson - Senior Manager Policy, Performance  
and Research

## **OV05/06/18 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S Graham

## **OV06/06/18 Substitute Members**

There were no substitute members

## **OV07/06/18 Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest

## **OV08/06/18 Minutes**

Resolved that minutes of the meetings held on 3 April & 22 May 2018 be confirmed.

## **OV09/06/18 Review of the Statement of Licensing Policy (Gambling)**

The Committee received a report detailing the initial proposals of the Draft Statement of Licensing Policy (Gambling) 2019-2022.

Each local authority is required by the Gambling Act 2005 to publish a Statement of Licensing Policy and to revise the Policy at least every three years.

The Authority's initial Policy had come into force on 31 January 2007 and had been reviewed and, where necessary and amended every three years thereafter.

The revised Policy is required to be in force by 31 January 2019 when the existing Policy would expire.

The draft revised Policy, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, contained the information that the Gambling Act 2005 (Licensing Authority Policy Statement) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006 had prescribed should be included in the Policy document.

Council on 19 November 2015 had passed a 'no casino' resolution which meant that the Authority would not grant any Casino Premises Licences in the Borough if it was given the power to do so. This resolution remained in place for the duration of the Policy.

The decision whether or not to pass a further 'no casino' resolution would form part of the consultation process concerning the revision of the Licensing Policy. If Council passed a 'no casino' resolution, then it would bind the Authority for a further three years (unless another resolution was passed in the interim) and would prohibit the Authority from issuing Casino Premises Licences in that period.

In preparing the draft revised Policy document, regard had been given to the Gambling Commission's statutory guidance and the Regulations issued in order to assist licensing authorities in the preparation of their Policy statements. The draft revised Policy statement included a number of new additions including reference to the Our North Tyneside Council Plan, a section on Child Sexual Exploitation awareness and information on safeguarding policies and responsible authority added for marine vessels.

The draft revised Policy statement would be subject to a six week period of public consultation that commenced on 1 June 2018. A list of consultees would appear in the Policy document and all consultees would be given the opportunity of providing feedback and comments on the draft Policy.

It was stated that all feedback and comments would be presented at a future meeting of the Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee for consideration prior to being presented to Cabinet on the 15 October and Council on 22 November 2018.

**Agreed** that (1) the Review of the Statement of Policy (Gambling) be noted;

### **OV10/06/18 Our North Tyneside Performance update – Presentation**

The Senior Manager Policy, Performance and Research accompanied by the Deputy Mayor who has Cabinet Responsibility for performance provided a presentation to the progress on the delivery of the Our North Tyneside Plan.

### **Our People**

The information presented showed performance improving across the range of indicators with:

- 6% increase in satisfaction with the way that the Council runs things
- 3% increase in belief that the Council provides value for money services
- 1% increase in feeling that the Council keeps people informed
- 3% increase in the belief that the Council acts on the concerns of local people.

A member stated that the information given was positive, however, greater context should have been provided to the Committee to the actual percentage position and not just the increase.

In response it was stated that the intention of the providing the information in this way was to illustrate that the trend in North Tyneside was continually improving.

With respect to Foundation Stage (including a reduction in the gap) and Key Stage 4 (GCSE) attainment had improved since 2013. It was stated that it had become difficult to compare and monitor at Key Stage 4 due to Government changes.

In respect to the information provided, employment in North Tyneside had increased by 10,200 during the period of 2012 -2016.

There was also a reduction in the percentage of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) from 4.1% in 2013/14 to 2.4% in 2016/17.

A member questioned to the percentage of young people whose position was not known. In response it was stated that there was a good tracking and understanding of all NEET's and when required this enabled the provision of individual packages.

67% of people had said they were in good health and there was also an increase in the Mental Health Well-being Index score that showed a score of 25.3 in North Tyneside in 2017, which was an improvement from 24.6 in 2012. The maximum score achievable was 35 (Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale).

Members raised that this was an area that scrutiny would like more information and the Deputy Mayor informed the Committee that a presentation was scheduled to be given at the next full Council meeting 26 July 2018.

Information was provided to the number of Looked After Children (LAC) that showed a reduction of 8 children from March 2017 to March 2018.

Members requested and it was agreed that LAC attainment levels would be provided for information.

## **Our Place**

With respect to Our Place the response to the 'Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your local area as a place to live', revealed that satisfaction was increasing and dissatisfaction was falling.

Performance with regards to the Net additional homes provided showed a significant increase in 2016/17 which saw 892 homes provided.

In relation to the boroughs parks and beaches it was shown that the borough maintained its Beach Blue Flags and increased its Parks Green Flag status.

### **Our Economy**

The position of the local economy remained strong with in both the view of the position of the local economy and the increase of the number of businesses in the borough.

Although there was a reduction in the number of small business start-ups, the data provided did show that there was an increase in business survival levels.

### **Our North Tyneside Plan 2018-2021**

The Deputy Mayor explained that the work was on going developing plans to deliver the new objectives in the revised Our North Tyneside Plan and reiterated the desire made at the December 2017 meeting that scrutiny members would be invited to aid in the formulation of the new measures for the revised Council Plan.

**Agreed** that (1) the Our North Tyneside Performance presentation be noted; and (2) that attainment level data of the Boroughs Looked After Children be provided to the Committee be circulated; and (3) scrutiny members be invited to aid the formulation of the new measures of the revised Our North Tyneside Plan 2018-2021.

### **OV11/06/18 Work Programme 2018/19**

A report was considered that detailed the work to be undertaken by Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee during 2018/19.

The Committee was reminded that the study established in 2017 to understand and review how the contract with the Authority partner Capita had operated since its inception was still on going and its findings would be presented to the Committee in the near future.

It was also informed that its views and actions raised by the Budget sub group during its work on the scrutiny of the 2018/19 Budget proposals had been submitted to the Head of Finance for consideration. It was hoped that the actions recommended would enable good comprehensive scrutiny of future Council Budgets and therefore reduce any delays to the budget process

With regards to possible future studies to be undertaken during the new municipal year, members raised the perceived concerns to developers disregarding planning permission conditions. This was discussed with anecdotal examples given, where developers had disregarded conditions and then submitted retrospective planning permission.

It was the view that Planning and Development Control was an area that should be looked at more closely by scrutiny.

The Committee was informed that the topic suggestion would be considered at the next Scrutiny Chair & Deputy Chair meeting where they would then be allocated to the most appropriate sub-committee to consider.

**Agreed** that (1) the Work Programme 2018/19 report be noted; and (2) the Planning & Development Control be considered at the next Scrutiny Chair & Deputy Chair meeting.