

Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 7 July 2014

CABINET MEMBER QUESTION SESSION

Purpose	To enable the committee to question Councillor Mitchell Theaker on his work, having specific responsibility and accountability as the Cabinet Member for Opportunities for Children & Young People.
Content	Councillor Theaker will attend to participate in a question and answer session. The committee's questions will broadly explore key activities and achievements as well as current developments, in relation to portfolio responsibilities.
Councillors are being asked to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Question the Cabinet Member on relevant matters• Make comments, observations and recommendations as necessary
Lead Councillor(s)	Councillor Mike Day, Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee
Lead Officer(s)	Dean Taylor, Director – Corporate Services
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 One of the most important roles that scrutiny carries out is holding the council's cabinet to account. By acting as a 'critical friend' scrutiny has the opportunity to challenge the cabinet and individual cabinet members on their actions and monitor performance in relation to their areas of responsibilities. The Scrutiny Programme Committee has scheduled a session with all cabinet members over the course of the year in order to ask questions on their work.
- 1.2 Councillor Mitchell Theaker has been requested to attend this meeting to enable the committee to explore the work he has done in his role as Cabinet Member for Opportunities for Children & Young People.

2. Opportunities for Children & Young People Portfolio

- 2.1 According to the Council Constitution the Opportunities for Children & Young People portfolio includes the following areas of responsibility:

- a. Workways / Beyond Bricks & Mortar (these projects aim to support people in finding work experience, training and employment)
- b. Play and Youth Service
- c. Youth Offending Service

2.2 The Cabinet Member has provided a short report on the 'headlines' from his work, focusing on priorities, actions, achievements and impact. (**Appendix 1**).

3. Approach to Questions

3.1 At the Cabinet Member Question Sessions the committee will generally ask cabinet members about:

- portfolio objectives
- specific activities and achievements, progress against policy commitments, key decisions taken, and impact / difference made
- headlines with regard to the performance of services within the portfolio
- key targets to measure improvement and success
- their engagement with service users / public and what influence this has had
- what they hope to achieve over the next 12 months (plans / priorities)
- challenges ahead (e.g. resources / budget)
- engagement with scrutiny on portfolio issues

3.2 The Cabinet Member will be invited to make introductory remarks before taking questions from the committee. Following the session the chair will write the Cabinet Member in order to capture the main issues discussed, views expressed by the committee, and any actions for the Cabinet Member to consider.

3.3 If the committee wishes to conduct more detailed scrutiny of any of the issues raised during this item then this should be agreed through the normal work planning process and planned for a future meeting. This will also allow proper time for preparation.

4. Previous Correspondence with Councillor Theaker

4.1 The previous question session with Councillor Theaker took place in July 2013. The resulting letters to / from the Cabinet Member are attached for background information to remind the committee of the issues that were discussed then and the response provided. The committee may wish to use the previous meeting as a reference point and follow up accordingly. The letters are **appended** to this report.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 There are no specific legal implications raised by this report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no specific financial implications raised by this report.

Background Papers: None

26 June 2014

Legal Officer: Nigel Havard

Finance Officer: Carl Billingsley