

Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 12 December 2016

CABINET MEMBER QUESTION SESSION

Purpose	To enable the committee to question Cabinet Members on their work. The committee's questions will broadly explore priorities, actions, achievements and impact in relation to areas of responsibility.
Content	The following Cabinet Member will appear before the committee to participate in a question and answer session: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Councillor Jane Harris – Cabinet Member for Adults & Vulnerable People
Councillors are being asked to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Question the Cabinet Member on relevant matters• Make comments and recommendations as necessary
Lead Councillor(s)	Councillor Mary Jones, Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee
Lead Officer(s)	Mike Hawes, Director – Resources
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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. The cabinet is made up of the Leader and 9 additional councillors, appointed by the Leader, who are allocated specific responsibilities.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 Cabinet Member Question Sessions have become a feature of committee meetings over the past 4 years. At least one cabinet member is scheduled to appear at each committee meeting, ensuring all 10 Cabinet Members appear before the committee over the course of a year, in order to ask questions on their work. Questions will focus on their priorities, actions, achievements and impact.

2. Cabinet Member Question Session

2.1 The following Cabinet Member will appear before the committee:

- a) Councillor Jane Harris – Cabinet Member for Adults & Vulnerable People

Within this Cabinet portfolio, she is responsible for:

- Activities to Promote Independence & Health
- Assessment / Care Management
- Domestic Abuse
- Drugs / Alcohol
- Elderly Care
- Integration of Health and Social Care
- Joint Equipment
- Learning Disability
- Mental Health
- Older People's Champion
- Supporting People (link with Wellbeing & Healthy City)
- Transformation of Adult Social Services (TASS)
- Western Bay

2.2 The Cabinet Member has provided some 'headlines' in relation to the portfolio to help the committee focus on priorities, actions, achievements and impact (see **Appendix 1**).

3. Approach to Questions

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

- priorities / objectives
- specific activities and achievements, progress against policy commitments, key decisions taken, and impact / difference made
- headlines on the performance of services and the key targets monitored to measure improvement and success
- their engagement with service users / public and what influence this has had
- what they hope to achieve over the coming months and challenges (e.g. resources / budget)
- key decisions they are expecting to take to Cabinet over the next year
- interactions with scrutiny over the last year, and whether there is any specific scrutiny activity they would welcome

3.2 The committee is also interested in:

- Sustainability and future trends - to what extent long-term thinking is influencing work / decisions, in light of the Well-being of Future Generations Act?
- Public Services Board (PSB) – what is the relationship with the work of the PSB? how is the work of the PSB impacting on their portfolio and helping them to deliver on priorities, and making a difference?

3.3 Cabinet Members will be invited to make introductory remarks before taking questions from the committee. Following the session the chair will write to 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.

3.4 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

4.1 The committee last had a Q & A regarding this portfolio in February 2016. Amongst the issues discussed then included:

- Adult Social Services Performance (including the rate of people older people helped to live at home)
- The development of Person Centred Care
- The effectiveness of Local Area Coordination
- GP Service (shortage of GPs)
- Prevention (safety at home)
- The monitoring of Modern Slavery
- Tackling Alcohol Misuse

The actual correspondence relating to this meeting is attached as the committee may wish to follow up on these issues, as necessary.

4.2 Other relevant contact with scrutiny:

- The Cabinet Member is engaged on an ongoing basis with the new Adult Services Panel.
- The Adult Services Panel will be following up on the implementation of recommendations and impact from the Scrutiny Inquiry on Social Care at Home in January 2017.
- She was engaged with the Transformation of Adult Social Services Panel which concluded its work in May with a letter to the Cabinet Member with conclusions and recommendations.

- The Cabinet Member attended the Service Improvement & Finance Panel in March as part of a series of meetings looking at the implementation / impact of savings targets.

5. Other Questions

- 5.1 For each Cabinet Member Q & A Session the committee invites members of the public and other scrutiny councillors (not on the committee) to suggest questions.
- 5.2 On this occasion no questions were received.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 There are no specific legal implications raised by this report.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no specific financial implications raised by this report.

Background Papers: None

Legal Officer: Stephanie Williams

Finance Officer: Carl Billingsley