

Hambleton District Council

Report To: Scrutiny Committee
1 October 2020

From: Chairman of Scrutiny Committee

Subject: **Policy Review Work Programme 2020/21**

All Wards

1.0 Summary

1.1 The purpose of this report is to invite the Committee to consider whether:-

- (a) to carry out an in-depth policy review during 2020/21; or
- (b) to postpone an in-depth policy review at the current time due to the exceptional circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.

2.0 Background

2.1 Due to the current circumstances in relation to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee is asked to consider whether it would be feasible to carry out a successful in-depth policy review at this time.

2.2 The Council's Constitution suggests as a guideline that the Council's Scrutiny Committee should undertake two policy reviews each year, although the Committee has decided in the past to concentrate on one large annual policy review only.

2.3 The Committee is scheduled to meet on four more occasions, namely 19 November 2020, 21 January 2021, 18 February 2021 and 18 March 2021. With COVID-19 restrictions ongoing, and with the other responsibilities which the Committee undertakes, the Committee may take the view that it is not feasible to successfully conclude an in-depth policy review and to finalise its report over the course of its next four meetings.

2.4 If it is the Committee's wish that an in-depth policy review is undertaken, it will be necessary for the Committee to identify an appropriate topic, to establish terms of reference, to timetable the evidence gathering stages and to finalise the report on its findings. In considering topics for review the Committee is asked to consider the Priority Themes as set out in the Council Plan which are as follows:

Driving Economic Vitality:

During 2020/21 the Council aims to:

- Facilitate 28 young people into local small businesses through apprenticeships and the graduate scheme
- Support £1m of new business investment in Hambleton
- Increase footfall across Hambleton's market towns by 5%

- Achieve a level of business rate collection of 97%
- Achieve a level of council tax collection of 95%
- Increase the number of major planning applications determined within 13 weeks, or as agreed with the applicant, to 80%
- Increase the number of minor planning applications determined within 8 weeks, or as agreed with the applicant, to 85%

Enhancing Health and Wellbeing:

During 2020/21 the Council aims to:

- Achieve health and fitness membership base of 3,322
- Achieve 'Learn2 Swim' membership base of 2,350
- Successfully allocate 100% (£248,910) of community grants
- Complete 100% of high/medium risk food premises inspections
- Complete 100% (16) of private water supply risk assessments

Caring for the Environment:

During 2020/21 the Council aims to:

- Maintain a recycling rate of 50%
- Monitor the effectiveness of the fly tipping and littering enforcement policy
- Facilitate 52 community litter picks
- Ensure that 20 electric vehicle charging points are provided within the district

Providing a Special Place to Live:

During 2020/21 the Council aims to:

- Maintain each year a minimum five year supply of deliverable housing sites
- Adopt the new Local Plan
- Deliver an additional 315 new homes
- Ensure 100% of homelessness decisions are made on time
- Ensure a total of 85% of funds allocated for disabled facilities applications is spent
- Process new housing benefit claims within 20 days in line with North Yorkshire authorities
- Process new council tax claims within 20 days in line with North Yorkshire authorities
- Process housing benefit changes in circumstance within five days in line with North Yorkshire authorities
- Process council tax changes in circumstance within five days in line with North Yorkshire authorities.

3.0 Recommendation

3.1 It is recommended that the Committee considers whether to:

- (1) carry out an in-depth policy review during 2020/21; or
- (2) postpone an in-depth policy review at the current time due to the exceptional circumstances occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Councillor K G Hardisty
Chairman

Background papers: Council Plan 2019-23
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