

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF POLICY AND CORPORATE RESOURCES
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE****COUNCILLOR JIM SHORROCK****PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING
DIRECTOR: TOM STANNARD.****DATE: 31st January 2013****POLICY AND CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

The Committee met at the end of November, receiving an update from the Peer review (previously brought before the Committee in July). The Peer Review action plan and the report to the Executive Board on the Peer Review were debated in some depth at the meeting, resulting in one of the recommendations being that the action plan be kept under review as part of the work programme for 2013/14

The Executive Member for Resources provided the Committee with responses to the recommendations made in the previous municipal year: These recommendations had been made on the Transformational Agenda and overall budget, Policy Council and the subsequent budget namely; "should the budget cuts be so severe?" along with a updates on Capita savings and changes to welfare reform which included issues such as Local Council Tax Support, Welfare Cap and Blackburn with Darwen's proposal as part of the response to recommendations.

Members of the Committee also received updates on the work programmes from the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods and Children and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

CHILDREN AND HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

At the December meeting the Committee received concluding reports and recommendations from both its Children and Adult sub groups, both having successfully completed the two separate work programmes they set out to deliver in the first half of the municipal year.

The Executive Member for Adult Services attended the meeting and gave a formal response to recommendations made last year. As part of the dialogue Members raised questions on Telecare, Centre for Independent Living and a new "Preventative" Agenda involving 10 to 12 integrated public health services.

In order to progress the work programme for the second half of the year, the Children's sub group met on 7th January and provisionally scoped their topic: They wish to conduct a piece of research and engagement work that will explore early intervention service provision for children & young people with mental health issues. The Executive Member for Children's Services had advised the Committee that she had identified challenges for children & young people around accessing appropriate services that will support their mental wellbeing after traumatic and negative experiences. Therefore the aim of this

research & engagement project will be to explore whether this is indeed the case and if so, to use the findings to scrutinise services and partner organisations that have a responsibility for supporting the mental wellbeing of children & young people. This research & engagement project will be set in the context of the authorities Independent Strategic Needs Assessment around children & young peoples' mental health and will provide a valuable body of evidence from which the Policy Department will continue this work.

At the last Committee meeting Members were asked to reconsider the two topics in the second half of the year (December to March 2013) and to establish with the Executive Members that these topics remain relevant: Specifically "Adults Safeguarding: Integrated commissioning and delivery" which had been partially reviewed as part of the scrutiny of Adults Social Care in the first half of the year. Members agreed to reconsider the choice of topic and to request the Director of Public Health to give them an update in January on challenges faced by the Council from April 2013 once Public Health returned as a Council function, the details of which will be scoped following an earlier agenda item at the meeting on the 16th January 2013. However the Committee is clear, and have been particularly mindful, to ensure that the review that will be undertaken will not duplicate the remit of the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board.

REGENERATION AND NEIGHBOURHOODS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

At the beginning of the year, Members of the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny agreed the following:

That the Committee would look at the following topics between July and November 2012:

- 1) Maintaining the Highways Network
- 2) Floods

And that the Committee would look at the following topics between November and March 2013:

- 1) Waste Procurement
- 2) Regeneration of the Town Centre

The Committee having asked the respective Executive Members if these topics remain relevant have chosen to continue with

- Waste Procurement
- Regeneration of the Town Centre

Members have agreed and established areas for consideration, key lines of Enquiry and potential stakeholders to engage along with membership of the task group Members have scoped both of these topics. The waste task group has met and held discussions with officers over the Councils current waste position. The task group are due to meet again to discuss options open to the council and to further examine the Councils own "Options report".

Work on the regeneration of the Town Centres task group will begin shortly. The Committee will also be undertaking a review of the Culture Leisure and Sports portfolio; to better understand the service portfolios recent successes.