

## **REPORT OF THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR OF POLICY AND CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE.**

### **Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

At the last meeting of the Policy and Corporate Resources Committee Members received a detailed presentation from the Regional Director of the Capita Partnership on the progress and future of the Capita contract.

The Policy and Corporate Resources Committee on the 4<sup>th</sup> December will be receiving a presentation from the Executive Member for Resources outlining the Councils position on the Capita contract and options available for the future. Members will also be looking at the Community Safety Strategy and the Health and Safety Strategy.

The Committee will also be receiving recommendations from all Scrutiny Committees on the first half of the year's work plan's and Policy and Corporate Resources will be agreeing their own recommendations from the Advice Services Scrutiny review.

### **Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

The Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Committee will be finalising the Empty Homes Strategy review at its next Task Group meeting, Members will be hearing from the Head of Housing and reviewing/considering the information received and the Site visit conducted. At the Committee meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> November Members will be agreeing recommendations on its work into Empty Homes.

Also at the next meeting of the Committee on the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2013, Members will receive a report from the Environment Portfolio on Shisha Bars, with the view to it being the Committee's next scrutiny review topic. Members will also receive an update on current position of the Council's waste procurement contract.

Moving forwards into the New Year the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Committee will be receiving an update on the pilot 20mph zone in the Mill Hill area and continuing to review departmental budgets.

### **Children and Young people Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

On the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013 some Members of the Committee attended Advice Services located at Blackburn Library where they received information from Age UK and Citizens Advice Bureau.

The Children and Young Peoples Committee are reviewing the draft consultation for the revised Blackburn with Darwen Young People Strategy as part of their Committee meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2013. They will also receive a portfolio budget update from the Executive Member for Culture

Leisure and Young People. Members will also receive further updates from the Executive Member for Children's Services regarding recommendations made at the end of the last municipal year. To start this meeting, there will be a presentation by the VOICE group of a PowerPoint given at Corporate Parenting Specialist Advisory Group.

At the first meeting of the new Corporate Parenting Specialist Advisory Group (CPSPAG) on 3<sup>rd</sup> October members of the VOICE group gave a presentation called "Fitting In – Improving the lives of Looked After Children": With support from a graphic facilitation service children and young people from a range of settings across the borough came together to anchor their thoughts feelings on their experiences of social care to date, as well as their aspirations for the future. In the meeting it was agreed that two areas identified earlier in the year by the Children and Young Peoples Committee would now be reviewed in more depth by this group who would report findings back to the Committee and the Executive Member; namely, the services for Looked after Children and Welfare Rights, Budget and Independent Living Skills Support, along with a review of the Golden Beez Card.

#### **Health and Adults Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

At the Health and Adults Committee meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2013 Members will be given an external overview of Vaccination and Immunisation Services in Blackburn and Darwen. This overview will be jointly delivered by Public Health England and NHS England. This Scrutiny review will be conducted using an approach termed Collaborative Inquiry; where the Executive Member and the Scrutiny Committee will jointly hear from the external speakers, whilst being supported by some of our Public Health Officers who will act as critical friends to the Authority at the meeting.

At the same meeting North West Ambulance Service will be presenting the Committee with an overview of some of their recent service improvements and the challenges they face into the future in this current climate of austerity.

As outlined in the last report to Council Forum additional moves are underway to establish a joint Pennine Lancashire Scrutiny Review Group to formally scrutinise the outcomes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> (follow up) Risk Summit relating to the Keogh Review. Members are aware that the timing of the follow up Risk Summit is in the gift of the Trust Development Authority to set, and that East Lancashire Hospital Trust will be advised of the date accordingly, it is anticipated this will take place towards the end of November 2013. Therefore a scrutiny review date is being considered for mid-January 2014. This review will also be run using the Collaborative Inquiry approach, which affords much more flexibility for all partners and stakeholders to form their own opinions and recommendations as they feel appropriate to their area whilst not having to reach a formal consensus, as the case would be with a traditional joint scrutiny review.

**Jim Shorrocks (Chair)**

**Carl Nuttall (Vice Chair)**