

REPORT OF THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR OF THE POLICY AND CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**COUNCILLORS JIM SHORROCK**
Carl Nuttall**LEAD CHIEF OFFICER:**
Andrew Lightfoot**DATE: 24th April 2014****Municipal year and Annual Review**

We have reached the end of a successful municipal cycle for Scrutiny. This year has seen a number of firsts for Scrutiny and a more collaborative approach by each Committee to ensure the Corporate Plan is delivered and the Executive held to account.

This has continued the progressive work by Scrutiny Members over the last few years to ensure that as the resources for the Council continue to diminish it becomes increasingly necessary to focus on the delivery and value of everything the Council does.

The Annual Review of Scrutiny was held on the 7th April 2014 and a number of Members were able to attend to contribute to the review of the Scrutiny year. The Annual Review also launched the new Scrutiny Toolkit that has been written by a Modern Apprentice alongside the Scrutiny team.

Looking forwards, Members were assured at the Annual Review that Councillors would be receiving Scrutiny and Chair training in the new Scrutiny year.

Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee

At the last meeting of Policy and Corporate Resources, the Committee discussed with the Executive Member for Resources the latest budget position update, followed by a presentation and discussion with both the Executive Member for Resources and the Director for I.T on the progress of I.T performance and I.T refresh. Members conducted a follow up walkthrough tour of the Advice Service now that it has been operational for a while, seeing how the new Advice Services model was meeting the increased needs of the Borough. Finally the Committee received a copy of the full R.I.P.A inspection report, the first time an AGMA Authority has received this at a Scrutiny Committee.

Children's and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Children's and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its last meeting completed comprehensive and successful work programme. One of the Committee's key successes this year has been the re-branding of the Gold BeeZ cards to Be Active.

Other completed areas for the Committee has included detailed reviews on, Children's Services remodelling, Pupil Premium, Virtual Head and Welfare reforms.

Health and Adults Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The final meeting of the Committee was the 26th February 2014, it concluded the work programme for the year in advance of the Annual Review of Scrutiny which took place on 7th April 2014.

The Committee reviewed some of its key areas in its work programme; in particular Members work on Vaccination and Immunisation uptake rates in Blackburn with Darwen and the Keogh Review Report. Both of these scrutiny reviews was the first time that the Council had undertaken a Collaborative Inquiry and one of the first in the U.K.

Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee

At the last meeting of the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Members completed their work programme with 2013-2014. This included finalising recommendations for their Scrutiny reviews into Shisha and Scrap Metal.

The Committee conducted successful reviews into the Empty Homes Strategy, Shisha, Advice Services, Waste Procurement Contract and Scrap Metal.

Members have also been consulted on the new Regeneration of Blackburn Town Centre strategy. The Executive Member for Regeneration also fed back to Members on how the Committees work on this subject in 2012-2013 had contributed to the new Town Centre Strategy.