

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

The new Scrutiny year will take place after Council Forum, starting on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014 with the Children's and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee, following on from a successful 2013/2014 Scrutiny Year.

The municipal cycle 2013/2014 for Scrutiny has seen a number of firsts for Scrutiny and a more collaborative approach by each Committee to ensuring 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.

### **Annual Review of Scrutiny;**

The Annual Review of Scrutiny was held on the 7<sup>th</sup> April 2014 and a number of Members were able to attend to contribute to the review of the Scrutiny year.

The Review highlighted the constructive and value driven work by Members working together cross-party, key reviews highlighted by Members included;

- R.I.P.A inspection report, the first time an AGMA Authority has received this at a Scrutiny Committee;
- new Advice Services model
- re-branding of the Gold BeeZ cards to Be Active;
- Children's Services remodelling;
- Vaccination and Immunisation;
- Keogh Review Report
- Shisha - hot topic
- Scrap Metal - hot topic

The Vaccination and Immunisation uptake rates in Blackburn with Darwen review and the Keogh Review Report were another two firsts for the Council. 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.

Another key message from the annual review was for training to be offered to Members on scrutiny and other topics to enable Members to develop and build knowledge. The first scrutiny training date was the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

### **Overview and Scrutiny Handbook 2014;**

The Annual Review also launched the new Scrutiny Handbook that has been written by a Modern Apprentice (Shannon Gardiner) alongside the Scrutiny team. The very well received handbook was praised by Members for its

information, its clarity, presentation and a great example of what the Council's modern apprentices were capable of.

The final version of the handbook was presented in hardcopy format to Members who attend the Scrutiny Training on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2014 and copies have been placed in all Members pigeon holes.

### **Scrutiny 2014-2015**

All Overview and Scrutiny Committees have yet to hold their first round of meetings, due to the late elections this year. Executive Members will be given the opportunity to present their top three priorities and risks. Using this as a guide, along with their own priorities and the Corporate Plan, members of the Committee will agree an outline work programmes for 2014/2015 which will be presented to Policy and Review Committee for approval on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2014.

As in the last few years it will again be especially important this year, as the Council, its partners and other public sector bodies look set to find further savings and that in agreeing the work programme, Members continue to work cross-party together to maximise the best use of resources.

More so than ever scrutiny needs to demonstrate its own contribution to enabling the Council to deliver the Corporate Plan, through pre-decision and performance delivery.

**Jim Shorrocks (Chair)**

**Derek Hardman (Vice Chair)**