

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

Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee;

The next meeting will take place after Council Forum on the 1st October 2014 and Members of the Committee will be provided with a mid-year budget update and progress updates on the work programmes from all the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

The agreed format for the first round of meetings for all four scrutiny Committees has been successfully delivered, and detailed work programmes have been agreed.

Over the next few months the Policy and Resources Committee will be following up on the Committee's work on the CAPITA contract from last year, looking at Cohesion and continue to monitor the Council's use of R.I.P.A.

At the meeting on the 1st October Committee Members will receive a mid-year budget update on the Council's finances and hold a discussion with the Executive Member for Resources on the budget pressures facing the Council in the year ahead.

Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee;

At the first meeting in the municipal year of the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members received presentations from each of the Executive Members with regards to their priorities, challenges and promises for 2014/15 and agreed a detailed work programme for the year.

The Committee agreed that they would receive a report on Troubled Families and update reports on Selective Landlord Licensing at future Committee meetings.

Since the first meeting of the Committee, Members have attended two task groups; one on the 7th August on the 12 point plan and one on the 12th August on the performance & downsizing of Environment (with Highways).

At the meeting on the 17th September Committee Members received a presentation on Alley Gating.

Children and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee;

At the first meeting on the 30th June the Executive Members for Children Services, Schools and Education and Leisure, Culture and Young People presented their priorities, challenges and an outline of the promises for their portfolio as indicated in the Corporate Plan. Apart from the core membership, the meeting was attended by the Youth MP, 2 Deputy Youth MPs, members of the VOICE group and the Young People Forum.

From a long list of; improving outcomes for looked after children and care leavers. Achieving permanence without unnecessary delay. Redefining the Council's role in ensuring education excellence for all. Developing a

partnership approach to school improvement. Witton Park arena and Blackburn leisure Centre, the Committee chose initial items for their work programme.

One of the main concerns raised by young people at the meeting was access to, and the price of, transport when using many of the excellent leisure offers in the borough. Feelings were very strong in the meeting that more should be done to support young people getting to and from leisure facilities. A lively meeting on 1st September took this issue as its main focus. The meeting was led by young people who discussed with Blackburn Transport and Transdev the challenges they faced, whilst being made aware of current and future support offers. Recommendations from the meeting came from the young people and were endorsed by the Committee.

Health and Adults Overview and Scrutiny Committee

At the meeting on the 7th July three senior representatives from the Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust provided an update on the Pennine Lancashire Mental Health Inpatient Unit. At the same meeting the Executive Member for Health and Adults Services presented his key priorities and risks in Public Health and Adult Services for 2014/15.

Having understood the challenges faced by the portfolio, the Committee chose an outline work programme focussing on the following areas; obesity, Food banks food poverty and the effects of welfare reform. The Committee also chose to revisit the topic of loneliness and social isolation. Looking to see what partnership organisations are or could be doing to deliver these objectives, on the 10th September the Committee heard from Blackburn with Darwen Clinical Commissioning Group, Public Health Lancashire, East Lancashire Hospital Trust and Lancashire Care Foundation Trust. The outcomes of the meeting included a series of recommendations which focussed on future collaborative delivery.

The Committee have held two task and finish group meetings outside of Committee: On Wednesday 27th August Members were advised by Public Health how they are delivering of the nationally mandated Public health programmes and whether other portfolios of the Council are delivering these challenges too. On Thursday 28th August Members were advised by Licensing Officers and Members with portfolio on latest position regarding Minimum Unit Pricing of alcohol and the potential (or not) for a fifth licensing objective relating to wider public health implications. On Tuesday 2nd members were given advised an in-depth briefing on Independence through preventative support by the Director of Adults and Commissioning one of the key priorities of the portfolio. Recommendations and actions from each of these groups are being progressed.

Jim Shorrocks (Chair)

Derek Hardman (Vice Chair)