

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

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

Since the last meeting of Council, the Committee has held two meetings, which saw Members receive a mid-year budget update on the Council's finances in October 2014 and hold a detailed discussion with the Executive Member for Resources on the budget pressures facing the Council in the year ahead. The Committee will continue to work with the Executive Member over the coming months on the financial challenges ahead.

The November meeting of the Committee, Members will look to continue work from last year on the CAPITA contract, and will be looking to conduct a pre-decision scrutiny review with the Executive Member around the CAPITA contract over the coming months.

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

The work of the Committee has continued to gather pace, at the last meeting Members undertook a pre-decision scrutiny review on Alley Gates and have made a number of suggestions and recommendations to the Executive Member.

The work of the two task groups has continued with the Performance & Downsizing of Environment (with Highways) task group, completing a number of meetings around various sections of the Environment portfolio and Members are now planning a number of site visits. This will include visits to Davyfield, witness taxi vehicle inspections and enforcement.

A site visit to the Cathedral Quarter and new bus site was conducted by the Town Centre task group with the Executive Member for Regeneration and Officers. This Task group will be meeting with Officers in the coming weeks to look at ways the Council can raise its profile.

At the October Committee Members received a report on Troubled Families and undertook another scrutiny review on Selective Landlord Licensing. As well as receiving an update report on waste procurement.

### **Children and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee;**

In light of recent media coverage both locally and nationally the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee formally requested an Extraordinary meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> September 2014 and for the Executive Member and Director of Children's Services to attend, giving a briefing on child sexual exploitation arrangements in the Borough. Feedback from the meeting was given to the Standards Committee on Thursday 2nd October 2014 which endorsed the recommendation from the Monitoring Officer and the Director of Children's Services be mandatory along with a recommendation that the training be made available to ALL Members. That training is now taking place on Monday

the 10<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2014. Responses so far have been significant and positive.

At the 13<sup>th</sup> October meeting the Committee formally signed off a set of recommendations from young people that arose from a review asked for by young people and conducted by young people on affordable transport when accessing (leisure) facilities in the borough. Additionally a presentation was given by the Executive Member for Schools and Education on the new School Improvement Model. Concluding the meeting members of VOICE, The Youth MP, Deputy Youth MP and members of Youth Forum were tasked with asking their peer groups and reporting back to the Committee on 24<sup>th</sup> November, what issues should be shortlisted for the remainder of the municipal calendar to deliver the Scrutiny review entitled Improving the outcomes for Looked After Children and Care leavers. That along with a presentation from the Chair of the Local Safety Children's Board and feedback on recommendations from the Executive Member for Children's Services on the topic "to establish what services were in the borough for children and young people experiencing (or having experienced) trauma".

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

As part of a short review in September the Committee considered and made recommendations and representations to the MP for Blackburn and subsequently the Home Secretary regarding the possibility of a further licensing objective.

On 14<sup>th</sup> October the Chair, Scrutiny Manager and the Director of Public Health attended the third "listening event" held by East Lancashire Hospital Trust. An ongoing commitment to continue to work together to deliver improvements remained very much key to the evening.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> October the Committee and representatives from Age UK met with the Director of Adult Services to further consider a previous review on "social isolation, loneliness and independence through preventative support".

On 20<sup>th</sup> October the Committee used the same Collaborative Inquiry format that has been used at previous meetings to consider a review entitled "Obesity and the environment: Regulating the growth of fast food outlets."

An outstanding review for a future meeting is "food banks, food poverty and the effects of welfare reform".

**Jim Shorrock (Chair)**

**Derek Hardman (Vice Chair)**