

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

COUNCILLORS: Jim Shorrock
Derek Hardman

LEAD CHIEF OFFICER:
Denise Park

Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee;

Since the last meeting of Council, the Committee has held a meeting to better understand the Council's digital vision and what services the Council currently offers digitally. The Committee saw first hand the pros, cons and challenges of making more services available digitally to the Public, Members will continue to work with the Executive Members over the coming months looking at options open to the Council.

At the October meeting of the Committee, Members will receive an update on changes to welfare reform and the impact on the Council.

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 achieving effective licensing of private rented properties across the Borough.

The Committee then created a task group to visit the environments departments public consultation at Ivy Street Community Centre, then received a tour of the area by the Executive Member and the director to see first-hand what the Council hoped to achieve.

A second task group has also been undertaken to review a new handbook for tenants and landlords who are in a selective licensee area, to ensure a comprehensive and practical handbook is provided.

A site visit to the Cathedral Quarter and new bus station site will be undertaken in September by the Committee, prior to the Members undertaking a review of the Capital project schemes currently being delivered in the town centre.

At the September Committee Members received a report on Partnership Working with Blackburn College, from the Director for Regeneration along with a detailed list of partners the Council works with.

Health and Adults Overview and Scrutiny Committee

At the task group on the 27th August 2015 Members received an overview from Public Health and Blackburn with Darwen CCG on Mental Health and Wellbeing to gain a better understanding of what it was and what support was available for residents of Blackburn with Darwen.

At the Committee on the 9th of September 2015 Members received a presentation from the Lancashire Care Foundation Trust on the pioneering work currently undertaken in Lancashire, namely the Custody Pilot. Representatives from Health Watch also attended to provide a balanced view on how well they thought the service worked.

Children & Young People's OSC

At the Committee meeting on 7th September 2015 Members received information from the Executive Members for Children's Services and Schools and Education on Children Missing from Home and Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

The Committee reviewed their work programme for the remainder of the municipal year and agreed that they would keep PREVENT as a legacy item. The Committee also felt that they had received sufficient information from the Executive Member on Children Missing from Home and would not set up a task group.

The Committee also agreed that in advance of the January Committee meeting where Members have requested an update on Universal Credit for Young People and their families, they would like to arrange a task group to speak directly with young people to hear about their experiences of the universal credit process.