

REPORT OF THE POLICY AND CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

LEAD CHIEF OFFICER:

Denise Park

Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee;

Since the last meeting of Council, there have been two Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings and two Call In Committee meetings. The Policy and Corporate Resources meetings have focused on understand the changes the Council faces as budgets continue to decrease and the impact on the Council as a whole.

Two key areas the Committee focussed on have been the workforce review and ensuring saving previously identified are delivered, this is a topic the Committee will be keeping under review as more information comes to light.

Call In

The Virtual Call In Committee has convened to hear two Call Ins since the last meeting of Council. The first on the 25th October 2016 relating to the Executive Member decision taken on the 15th September 2016 'Implementation of a Development Investment Fund and approval to Recycle Capital Receipt Income', the second was held on the 21st December 2016 regarding the Executive Member decision taken on the 8th December 2016 'Proposed Traffic Regulation Order for Railway Road and Atlas Road, Darwen'. The outcome of the named vote for both of these meetings was to accept the decision of the Executive Members and both decisions were progressed.

Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee;

The Committee has continued its work, reviewing in detail the Boroughs night time economy. Members have also undertaken a review with the Executive Member of potential Capital project schemes currently being considered in the Borough to continue to drive growth.

Members also received an update on the Council's parking offers in the Borough and changes since it was last presented to the Committee And Members received a presentation from Executive Member for Neighbourhoods Housing and Customer Services on a number of recommendations made by the Committee on its work into Selective Landlord Licensing and an update on the progress of scheme.

Health and Adults Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Committee has nearly completed its chosen work programme for the municipal year, with only one standing meeting remaining (13th March). At their meeting on the 17th October 2016, the Committee received an overview

of Homecare costs, sustainability of care homes, market provision and the 2016/17 Homecare retender. Members will be invited to take part in the retendering consultation as the process progresses to allow for pre-decision scrutiny.

Since the last Council meeting, Members have undertaken one of three planned site visits to Care centres (Spring Bank Court, Hopwood Court and Kingsway) to see first-hand the provisions in place for Blackburn with Darwen residents.

The Committee received an update on how Adult Services are trying to meet the demand for Care, which in the main, would be increasing collaborative partnership working and developing a community asset based approach to service delivery. A task and finish group explored this topic in detail and Members agreed that they will continue to work with the Executive Member over the coming months as the Your Call agenda progresses.

At the meeting on the 23rd January, the Director of Public Health returned to provide Members with an update on his risks and priorities for the year. Members also considered work of external partners such as Healthwatch Blackburn with Darwen and the impact of winter pressures on A&E provision in the Borough.

Children & Young People's OSC

Since the last meeting of Council, the Committee has completed a number of items on its work programme for this year. At its October meeting, Members reviewed mental health services for young people with a focus on substance misuse and self-harm. They also received a presentation on the integrated youth offer for the Borough.

A task and finish group attended a site visit at St Thomas' Pupil Referral Unit Darwen to witness first-hand the mental health training schemes currently being piloted in the education system. Members will receive updates on this training as the scheme is rolled out to other schools.

In November the Executive Member for Children's Services gave Members an overview of the rising demand for Children's Social Care and the measures the department will be implementing to meet the demand whilst continuing to deliver efficiency savings. The Committee also agreed a series of recommendations on their work programme to date which were forwarded to their respective Executive Members.

The Committee were given a presentation on Social Educational Needs and Disabilities at their January 16th 2017 meeting. The presentation outlined the key changes to legislation and how the department was meeting increased demand and preparing for OFSTED inspection.