

REPORT OF THE POLICY AND CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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PORTFOLIO COORDINATING

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Progress of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Set out below is the progress made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees on their work programmes during the January/ February Cycle of meetings. We will update the Council Forum on the work arising from the final round of Committees which take place just prior to the meeting.

1. Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Committee met on Monday 29th January and looked at one of the major topics to progress their work programme.

The issues considered by the Committee and the progress made are as follows:-

Youth Service

The Committee continue to give a voice to the work being carried out by our Youth MP and Deputies supported by the Youth Service. The Committee noted that they have been very busy attending the events such as Holocaust Memorial and preparing for the youth MP elections. The Committee were invited to attend the declaration of the result which would be on the 12th February at 4.30pm in the council chamber.

Ofsted Review of Children's Services.

The Committee looked at the processes and recommendations from the Ofsted review carried out in the autumn of 2018. The review had been reported to the meeting of the Council Forum on 29th January and the Committee looked at the processes that had been followed and the conclusions, the review had found that the services were "Good" and that the Committee were taken through the positive issues that had been highlighted; also the list of recommendations noted and that they were already starting to be addressed. The Committee looked at the costs associated with placing children in care and the effects this had on the overall children's services budget. The Committee requested a detailed 'action plan' and were informed the next steps for consideration of the review, noted the recommendations and that an action plan to deal with these would be reported to the Executive Board at its meeting in March".

The Committee were informed of the next steps for consideration of the review and noted that the recommendations and action plan to deal with this would be reported to the Executive Board at its meeting in March. The Committee agreed that the action plan would be kept under review as part of the future scrutiny processes and

individual aspects examined where appropriate to ensure that the issues that arise are addressed.

The Committee looked at the recommendations of the judgement and how these judgements had been reached. The Executive Board on 8th March would consider an action plan and timeline to meet the recommendations of the report and this could be scrutinised by the Committee at a later date.

Members discussed the process with regards to scrutiny of action plans following reviews and how they scrutiny input could be best used. Members agreed that the benefits of pre decision scrutiny and the input of scrutiny into action plans should be looked at as part of the annual review of scrutiny.

2. Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

The Committee continued with their work programme looking at the topics of car parking and enforcement income and road safety.

Car Parking and Enforcement

The Committee looked at the progress towards income targets for car parking and enforcement. They were informed of the joint actions that were to be taken in the near future to prevent misuse of the disabled parking blue badge scheme. The Committee were also reminded that the money raised through parking and enforcement measures could only be spent on highways and road safety schemes.

The Committee welcomed the forthcoming action to address any issues of miss-use of Disabled Parking Permits in the borough. The Committee also noted that the economic impact of parking, its contribution to the Councils and that income could only benefit highways and road safety issues.

The Committee looked at the issue of road safety and the way the Council and its partners worked together to deliver on the issues. The Committee were informed that Road Safety was not designated as one of the Police and Crime Commissioners Key Priority issues. The Committee made the following recommendations:-

- 1 That the Executive Member be requested to raise with the Police and Crime Commissioner the effects that road miss use has on the community and that he be requested to make road safety one of his key priorities for the coming year.
- 2 That the Chair of the Licensing Committee be requested to raise the issue of acceptable driving of taxi drivers at the next meeting of the taxi forum and restate the standards expected by the Council and the residents of the Borough.
- 3 That information on road safety on a ward basis be forwarded to each member to ensure that they are aware of the issues in their area and also what is being done to mitigate this and improve safety.

- 4 That information be made available to School Governors and to Head Teachers through the Head Teachers Bulletin setting out the assistance that is available to schools in relation to road safety and traffic issues around schools.

3. Health and Adults OSC

Health Watch

The Committee looked at the work of Health Watch and the way in which they operated in relation to other health bodies. The organisation was commissioned by the Health and Wellbeing Board carried out work on their behalf. The Committee agreed to receive an update on the key areas and reviews and how these could be fed into the Committees work programmes at the next meeting of the Committee.

The Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Committee received an overview of the work of the Health and Wellbeing Boards and how they were progressing in meeting their strategic targets. The key achievements were outlined and these were broken down into Start Well, Live Well and Age Well. The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy was also outlined. This was an overarching plan 'through which the public, private, community and voluntary sectors, as well as residents themselves would work together to improve health and wellbeing for and with local people'.

Members were informed of the key priorities for 2017/18 and the issues that may affect delivery and achievement of these. The Committee were informed of the ratings for this Borough in comparison with comparator authorities and how well this Borough was rated.

The Committee agreed that the future of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the introduction of a Pan Lancashire Board be maintained as a key focus for the future scrutiny.

4. Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee continued its work programme looking at key issues relating to RIPA, Health, Safety and Wellbeing and IT and Data Protection.

Regulatory and Investigative Powers Act 2000.

The Committee also considered the procedural guide for use of Regulatory and Investigatory Powers under the 2000 Act. The guide set out how the Council's powers should be used and took account of the inspectors report on use of the process. The Committee agreed to recommend to the Executive Members for Resources that the procedure guide be approved.

Health and Safety and Wellbeing.

The Committee looked at the issues of Health and Safety and how the Council keeps its employees safe whilst at work. The Committee looked at the statistics relating to accidents and near misses per department, how this was reported to the Health and Safety Consultative Committee and how this was followed up to ensure that lessons learned could lead to improvements and safer working condition and practices. The Committee looked at how raised awareness in reporting procedures could lead to higher levels of reports received and how with reorganisation of departments could lead to fluctuations in departmental reporting levels. Reporting could on line or through managers for those staff who did not have easy access to a computer.

The Committee were informed that the Health and Safety Consultative Committee considered reports of all accidents and near misses and included members of the trades unions. This ensured that the concerns of employees could be raised and considered. Audits were carried in on work procedures throughout the Council and this highlighted issues that needed to be addressed.

The Committee looked at the work that was being carried out on promoting wellbeing within the Council and how this was having a positive effect on employees. The Committee were made aware of the positive actions campaigns including lunch time walks, wellbeing warriors, eating well and getting active. The aim of the work on wellbeing was to

- Reduce sickness absence
- Increase productivity
- Give employees the opportunity to build positive workplace arrangements
- Increase employee engagement, satisfaction and retention.

The next steps of the wellbeing strategy was outlined and how this would further the work on wellbeing. This strategy included training employees to become qualified Mental Health First Aiders by the end of March 2018, Health and Wellbeing champions, and work towards the National award for England – the Workplace Wellbeing Charter. Work would also take place during 2018 to

- Create a dedicated wellbeing page
- Creation of toolkit/comprehensive schemes
- A joined up approach
- Promoting awareness of existing wellbeing initiatives
- Promoting the 5 ways to wellbeing, and,
- Encourage managers to be supportive looking at alternatives.

Members drew attention to the positive effects of the wellbeing strategy on both people employed by the Council and how this benefited the wider community and partners organisations through dissemination of behaviours learned at work.

The Committee noted the actions being taken to ensure that the Council employees are as safe as possible whilst at work and that work practices are reviewed to ensure this and agreed that all Members be reminded of the work the Council did as part of Health and Safety. The Committee has asked that Health and Safety of Members be included in the induction programme for Members of the Council. The Committee also recommended that Members be encouraged to take up the challenge offered by wellbeing and to make positive changes to their life styles.

IT and Data Protection

The Committee were updated on the Councils policy with regard to the use of IT and data protection and looked at the issues relating to the sharing of data in particular which was a particular difficult area for members of the Council. The Committee looked at the guidance the Council produced on this and the dangers that exist. Members discussed the benefits of including this in the guidance given to Members of the Council during induction and particularly at the next election which will see a Full Council election. This recommendation will be forwarded to the Standards Committee who were responsible for this area with a recommendation that this be included in the list of mandatory training. The Committee also looked at the Councils Cyber Security Strategy which outlined the Council response protecting the information assets and reputation.

The future?

The final round of Committees are now under way with all meetings looking at what they have achieved over the year and how they have made a positive difference to the services provided to residents of the Borough. The Committees have also looked at ways that they could better influence service provision and delivery and how they can ensure that these lessons are passed on to the new Committees and Members through the annual review and new Member's induction programme.

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