

## **Council Forum, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023.**

### **Progress of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

To update the Council Forum on the progress of the Policy and Corporate Resources, Health and Social Care, Children and Young People and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

#### **Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023.**

The Committee continued to with its work programme and looked a number of the key issues effecting the delivery of services in the borough.

#### **Youth MP and the work of the Youth Forum.**

The Committee received an update from the youth MP on the work that was ongoing. The Committee also looked at the work of the youth forum who were involved in a number of campaigns and projects including the young inspectors programme and the Youthfonia event held in Blackburn which had focused on the issues of Violence, LGBT and the cost of living. Members welcomed the work of the forum and their involvement in the work of the Committee.

#### **Children's Attainment**

The Committee received an update on the attainment of children in the borough and how this compared to regional and national averages. The data provided a snapshot of attainment at Key Stage 1, 2 and 3 and beyond and how the work that had been done to improve attainment was working. The Committee looked at how attainment had improved over time and the work that had led to this including working with schools, introducing programmes borough wide to improve the learning foundations and how this was monitored. The Committee will continue to monitor the attainment of children in the next municipal year.

#### **Update on Improving Speech, Language and Communication- Early Years Strategy.**

Earlier in the Committees work programme for the year we had looked at the early year's strategy for improving speech, language and communication. The provision of high quality early education, particularly in early language skills could greatly improve a child's attainment throughout primary school and that almost half the gap between disadvantaged children and their peers at key stage 4 has emerged by the age of five. Nationally, Speech, Language and Communication are the biggest barriers to children making progress.

The Committee were informed of the significant progress that had been made across the Authority and the level of commitment from all education providers in the borough since the introduction in October and how this would be progressed.

#### **Self -Assessment Framework**

The Committee were updated on the work that was ongoing on the Self-Assessment Framework for Children's Social Care. The framework was using a systemic approach to what we do and the difference that has been made. The Committee were made aware of the work that was still be done and the challenges that need to be faced. The Committee will keep the progress on the self-assessment frame work under review and hold the Executive Member to account for delivered outcomes at future meetings.

## **Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023.**

The Committee continued with its work programme and focused on an issue highlighted by members earlier in the year.

### Section 106 Contributions

The committee focused on the issue of section 106 payments looking at-

- When they are sought
- The decision process
- Development Viability and contributions
- The contributions received by the council
- Affordable housing provision and S106
- Education Provision and S106
- Transport and Highways Provision and S106
- Green Infrastructure/Open Space and S106

The Committee were informed that a summary of the section 106 contributions were outlined and published on the Council's website and that the council was one of the first councils to publish in this way. Members were reminded of the publication of the Local Plan later in the year which clarified the Council's role in seeking funding contributions from developments.

Members looked at how Ward Councillors could have an input into how money could be spent in their wards and also how Community Associations could seek to influence how money was spent in an area.

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

The Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee meets on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March and will review the work of the Committees during the year. The Chair of the Committee will update members on the progress of that meeting.

### **Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**

The Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be meeting on the Monday following Council Forum and will look at the outcome of the Care Quality Assurance peer challenge day and an update on Care Home Assurance.

**Councillor Sylvia Liddle**, Chair, Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**Councillor Brian Taylor**, Chair, Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**Councillor Tony Humphrys**, Chair Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**Councillor Jacqueline Slater**, Chair of the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.