

## Council Forum, 20<sup>th</sup> July 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, and also to inform Council of new support for the Committees.

#### New Support

In order to provide further support to the four overview and scrutiny committees, a Head of Service has been assigned to each Committee, from a different service area than being scrutinised (see list below).

The Head of Service will offer advice and guidance in meetings, and ensure that actions are co-ordinated and progressed after meetings. This is in addition to the support provided by Democratic Services.

- Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Chris Bradley, Head of Corporate Contracting and Procurement.
- Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Andrea Sturgess, Head of Communications and Engagement.
- Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Simon Ross, Head of Finance.
- Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Tony Watson, Head of Environment.

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

At the meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> June, the Committee received a report back from the Executive Member for Public Health, Prevention and Wellbeing in response to the recommendations of the re:refresh Task Group, with the Committee giving feedback and suggestions on access to services, which Councillor Talbot advised would be taken into account and would help further improve services.

The Committee also noted the Draft Safeguarding Adult Board Business Plan, and discussed its Work Programme for 2023/24, and agreed on one key item per meeting, in the following order:

- **Scrutiny of the arrangements for the Integrated Care Board** – how will it work and what will the benefits be for local people?
- **CQC Self Assessment** – regulation of the Council care commissioning via the CQC, which came into force in 2022, the care market, safeguarding and budgets for the most vulnerable will all be subject to inspection at any time, how prepared is the Council?
- **Scrutiny of Care Homes in the Borough** – Task and Finish Group to report back and Committee to discuss. Task and Finish Group Membership – Councillors Jacquie Slater, Tony Humphrys and Anthony Shaw.

## **Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

At the meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023, the Committee received an update from the Youth MP and Youth Forum on their recent events and activities, discussed an offer from the LGA to hold a two hour in person development session (which has been scheduled for Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023) as well receiving a presentation from Jo Siddle on the shift to a Blackburn with Darwen Place based model for the for the Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP) from a Pan Lancs Model.

The main focus of the Committee was discussing its Work Programme for 2023/24, and following information from the Executive Member and Strategic Director, the Committee agreed on one key item per meeting, in the following order:

- **Corporate Parenting** – to ensure the importance of Corporate Parenting is fully understood by the Council and its Partners.
- **Local Safeguarding Assurance Partnership** – Update on last six months since update at June meeting.
- **School Improvement Strategy**

## **Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Following presentations from the two Portfolios, it was agreed that at the next meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> August, a report on Highways Infrastructure be submitted, with particular focus on the roads themselves, ie.road condition/pot-holes, traffic lights etc.

The second item, for the following meeting, would be Environmental Crime, in particular fly-tipping and dog fouling.

The third work programme item, to be discussed at the last meeting of 23/24, would be selected at the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

Members agreed that rather than presentations, reports should be submitted with the agenda, so they could properly consider these ahead of meetings

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

At the meeting to be held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023, the Committee will receive an update on RIPA Activity, review the Procedural Guide and feedback from the RIPA Inspection held in November 2022.

The Committee will receive information from the Executive Members for Finance & Governance and Digital & Customer Services on their priorities and objectives for 2023/24, which will assist the Committee in agreeing its Work Programme for 2023/24.

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

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

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

**Councillor Suleman Khonat**, Chair of the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee.