
Chief Executive's Office

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Date: 3 March 2006

Chief Executive:
Donna Hall

Dear Councillor

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL - TUESDAY, 14TH MARCH 2006

You are invited to attend the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel to be held in the Committee Room, Town Hall, Chorley on Tuesday, 14th March 2006 commencing at 6.30 pm.

AGENDA

1. **Apologies of Absence**
2. **Declarations of Any Interest**

Members of the Panel are reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Members' Code of Conduct. If the personal interest is a prejudicial interest, then the individual Member should not participate in a discussion on the matter and must withdraw from the Committee Room and not seek to influence a decision on the matter.

3. **Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)**

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 8 February 2006 (enclosed).

4. **Public Participation in the Council's Decision Making Process - Scrutiny Inquiry**
 - a) **Public Speaking Element - Feedback on Visits** (Pages 5 - 8)

Continued....

The Chairman will invite the Members who were able to attend the following meetings to comment on the visits and perceived effectiveness of the adopted arrangements:

- West Lancashire District Council's Planning Committee on 19 January 2006;
- Meeting of West Lancashire District Council as an Assembly on 25 January 2006;
- Meeting of Rossendale Borough Council on 1 February 2006;
- Meeting of South Ribble Borough Council on 15 February 2006.

Notes on the meetings of the Rossendale and South Ribble Borough Council meetings held on 1 and 15 February respectively, as prepared by Councillor Mrs Smith, are enclosed for consideration.

b) Public Speaking - Key Issues for Consideration (Pages 9 - 10)

The Panel will be invited to consider whether it wishes to support a recommendation that the Authority introduces a system to allow the public to speak and ask questions at Council and/or Committee meetings, in the light of survey evidence and Members' visits to neighbouring Councils.

If the Members support the principle of public speaking, the Panel will, firstly, need to consider and assess the following key issues and factors that were identified in the inquiry's scoping document:

- Which Meetings would the public be allowed to speak or ask questions at – Council, Executive Cabinet, Development Control or all meetings?
- Would the public be allowed to speak on all agenda items or only selected items?
- Would prior notice of intended questions be required and, if so, the length of notice?
- Length of time allowed for speaking.
- Arrangements for feedback of responses to the public.
- Meeting room accommodation.
- Publicity arrangements.

Secondly, the Panel will be advised to request the Officers to produce draft Procedure Rules for public speaking, taking account of Member' expressed views, for submission to the next meeting.

A copy of a note expressing the views of Councillor Brownlee on public speaking at meetings, which was circulated at the last Panel meeting, is attached for consideration.

c) Area Forums/Committees element

The Chief Executive has been invited to attend the meeting to

- present a report on the extent of existing forms of community engagement within the Borough;
- report on the means of community engagement practiced by Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council;
- advise the Panel of the implications of the Government's 'Neighbourhood' agenda.

d) Community Groups

The Panel has been invited to attend, as observers, the meeting of the community group, Positive Action in East Chorley (PAiCE) to be held at Tatton Community Centre on 8 March 2006 at 1.00pm.

The next meeting of the South West Chorley Community Safety Group (SWITCH) is scheduled to be held on 6 June at a venue and time to be confirmed.

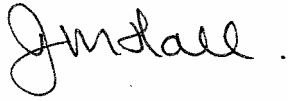
The Members may also wish to invite representatives of PAiCE and SWITCH to attend a future Panel meeting in order to explain the primary purposes of the Area Forum proposals.

5. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme, 2005/06 (Pages 11 - 12)

A copy of the 2005/06 Work Programme is enclosed for consideration.

6. Any other item(s) that the Chair decides is/are urgent

Yours sincerely



Chief Executive

Distribution

1. Agenda and reports to all Members of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Councillor M Perks (Chair), Councillors T Bedford, A Birchall, Brownlee, P Buckley, Mrs M Gray, F Culshaw, G Morgan, Mrs I Smith and A Whittaker) for attendance.
2. Agenda and reports to Chief Executive, Head of Customer, Democratic and Office Support Services and Assistant Head of Democratic Services for attendance.

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ان معلومات کا ترجمہ آپکی اپنی زبان میں بھی کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ یہ خدمت استعمال کرنے کیلئے براہ مہربانی اس نمبر پر ٹیلیفون
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