

REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. This report summarises the business considered at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 26 September, the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel held on 10 October and includes an update on the task group review.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 26 SEPTEMBER 2019

Notice of Executive Decisions

2. Members of the Committee considered the Notice of Executive Decisions for September 2019 which gave notice of key and other major decisions Executive Members are expected to make. The Notice is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that it is up to date and fit for purpose.

Health Scrutiny

3. Councillor Margaret France update the Committee on the recent LCC Health Scrutiny Steering Group meeting. At the meeting on 24 September, the main focus was on the health service reorganisation with the integrated care system (ICS) and an update on Our Health Our Care.
4. At present, it was understood that there was not enough detail with regards to the reorganisation and the Steering Group would be asking ICS for more information before they could make a formal decision. With regards to Our Health Our Care, the Clinical Senate had recently visited both Chorley and Preston and would be making a final decision on the proposals that would be moving forward. Once shortlisted, the proposals would be going out for public consultation. We noted the update.

Subsidised Bus Services Update

5. The Chair welcomed Vicky Willett, Service Lead for Transformation and Partnerships, to the meeting. An update was provided on the current position of the subsidised bus routes across the borough.
6. We noted that in July 2019, the daytime 109A service was withdrawn by Stagecoach due to a lack of commercial viability; this had implications for the services funded by Chorley Council (357, 109B and 4A). Previously, bus subsidies had been reactive and cost a significant amount, but in this instance the Council worked with LCC to come up with a more viable solution that would incorporate the majority of the provision within the subsidised routes. The reconfigured services would deliver a replacement for the 109A within existing resources. The services created were the 118/119 and the 24A. As a result of these changes, there has been a reduction of £27,000 in funding for subsidised bus services compared to 2018/19.
7. We were advised that Chorley Council provided a contribution towards the delivery of the 118/119 and 24A services. The contribution was split with LCC; with the Council providing 25% funding for the day services (LCC 75%) and 75% funding (LCC 25%) for the evening services. The approximate cost to the Council per annum was £65,731. This was agreed through an Executive Member decision and funding was committed towards these services for a 12-month period from 1 September 2019 – 31 August 2020.
8. The report also outlined the approximate current bus provision within the rural areas into the town centre and surrounding areas. Findings indicated that there were bus services reaching most areas of the borough, however the Council were looking for alternatives and ways to better use funding in rural areas such as the dial-a-ride service.

9. The Chair queried whether residents in Astley Village were happy with the new replacement service. It was understood that there had been initial issues, but these had been addressed. Following questions regarding the amount per passenger that was being subsidised by the council, we were advised that calculating cost per passenger was complex due to the way fare data was recorded and presented by LCC with costs varying depending on the location and frequency of the service. Generally, buses were operating significantly under capacity.
10. We agreed that work needed to be done to get more people on the buses and discussed how a reduction in costs could achieve this. We also suggested that some of the 125 services be rerouted to accommodate more residents in Adlington. It was subsequently agreed that Stagecoach be invited to a future meeting to discuss these issues and the potential solutions. We noted the report.

Overview and Scrutiny Task Group – Roll out of Superfast Broadband – Monitoring of Recommendations

11. Mark Lester, Director for Business, Development and Growth, welcomed Portia Taylor-Black, Business Engagement Officer, to the meeting and presented a report that updated the Committee on the implementation of the recommendations made by the inquiry which reported to the Executive Cabinet in August 2017.
12. Officers had experienced difficulty in receiving any updates from LCC and BT, therefore the report contained the latest updates received from September 2018. It was agreed that officers would continue to try and get an update and a further monitoring report would be brought back to the Committee in March 2020.
13. Updates had been received internally for Chorley Council and highlighted numerous positives from Chorley including;
 - Fibre broadband for all new developments
 - Policy inclusion within the new Local Plan
 - Voucher schemes for SME's to support with fibre broadband installation
 - Work undertaken to link to the Council's digital agenda
 - Digital skills training
 - The introduction of town centre and corporate/guest Wi-Fi
 - Plans to extend the Wi-Fi range going forward as works take place to extend out fibre network (e.g. towards Primrose Gardens)
14. Following queries regarding the take up of the digital skills training, we were advised that 1041 learners attended the training in 2018/19. We thanked Simon Charnock for all of this hard work in delivering these sessions. We noted the update.

Reports from the Task and Finish Groups

15. We received a verbal update from Councillor Steve Holgate on the work undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group looking into Developing the Council's Green Agenda.
16. At the first meeting of the Task Group, which took place on 12 September, Councillor Paul Sloan was appointed Vice-Chair alongside Councillor Holgate as Chair. The Task group received two presentations; one from Vicky Willett, Service Lead for Transformations and Partnerships providing background and context and one from James Hoskinson, Local Plan Technical Officer on the Council's Sustainable September initiative for staff.

17. The Task Group considered the scope of the inquiry and discussed their objectives, outcomes, and who they wanted to interview as part of the review. The scoping document was drafted from this and would be a working document that would be brought back to each meeting.
18. Members of the Task Group acknowledged how big the issue of climate change was and therefore in order to consult with as many people as possible, the Task Group would split into smaller groups to interview and gather information from the stakeholders. Any information would then be reported back to the next meeting. It was also hoped that some site visits would take place.
19. Following queries regarding completion of the Task Group, we were advised that this had not yet been confirmed but it was proposed that an interim report be submitted prior to the consideration of the budget for 2020/21. We noted the update.

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

20. We considered the work programme for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Performance Panel and task group areas for 2019/20.
21. The Chair highlighted the busy schedule and recognised the need to look at neighbourhood working and neighbourhood area meetings prior to the all-out elections in May 2020. It was agreed that this be discussed at the next meeting in January with a view to schedule an additional meeting to address this.

Update on the New Waste and Recycling Collection Contract

22. Asim Khan, Director for Customer and Digital and Adrian Lowe, Executive Member for Customer, Advice and Streetscene Services, presented the confidential update report on the new waste and recycling collection contract that was implemented in April 2019.
23. We were satisfied with the new service and thanked officers for all their hard work in delivering this.
24. We were also reminded of the recycling changes being implemented from 1 October which would make it easier for residents to recycle more plastic waste. Additional items such as clean plastic pots, tubs and food trays could also be recycled from this date. We noted the report.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE PANEL – 10 OCTOBER 2019

Performance Focus – Early Intervention and Support

25. We welcomed Chris Sinnott, Director (Early Intervention and Support). Rebecca Aziz-Brook, Transformation Programme Co-Ordinator, presented the report which provided contextual information with regards to the overall Directorate summary, the budget position and the key performance summary and key project update for 2019/20. The data within the report reflected the position in quarter one.
26. We noted that one of the key projects within the Directorate was to deliver a wholly owned company. A report was presented to the Council meeting in July and the project was being progressed by Legal and the Commercial Services directorate. Members noted that staff would not TUPE over to the company and work undertaken for the company by Council employees would be recharged.

27. The other key project was to develop a framework for building community resilience and delivery of identified projects. The project was rated as Amber for quarter one due to a delay in producing a draft of the community resilience framework. The delay to this was due to reduced capacity within the Health and Wellbeing team, as there were issues with back filling a post within the team.
28. We were advised that there had been significant changes to the top team at the Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust which had impacted on the Integrated Community Wellbeing Service, but it was now the primary delivery vehicle for new ways of working developed through the Chorley Public Service Reform Partnership. To further embed early intervention and prevention, the service would focus on working more closely with GP's as new place-based networks were established for the delivery of health and care services. Social prescribing was a non-clinical link work who could highlight the services the Council could offer to residents. We were pleased with the new service and the potential to track where people are within the different services.
29. Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust contributed £65,000 to be collocated within the Union Street Offices. The aim of the Service was to better serve the residents of Chorley and this had been achieved across services, including housing. There were long term savings for health and social care. It was difficult to measure the success of the Service, but proposals for performance indicators would be brought back to Overview and Scrutiny.
30. Members queried the performance indicators in relation to Cotswold House. The percentage of voids were higher for quarter one and this had had a knock-on effect on the percentage of rent collected which was also lower than anticipated. The trend was due to multiple factors including; a reduction in the number of referrals coming into the service; tenants were moving on quicker due to new builds and the improved service provided by Calico (Accommodation Providing Service). Not all cases were suitable for Cotswold House and this would be monitored in the next quarter.
31. We noted the recent press article in relation to food hygiene standards and the process for establishments to be reassessed. High risk establishments are inspected more frequently.
32. The indicators in relation to volunteering were discussed. Time credits had been in operation for around ten years and the organisation who ran it recently changed their approach. A review of the scheme would be undertaken, including how the many small community groups and the contribution they made within Chorley could be recognised.
33. We were advised that there was a service level business plan relating to community centre management. Phase one reviewed the charges for bandings and phase two would review how best to manage each centre. This would be specific to each centre rather than a one size fits all approach and the Council would retain ownership of the building itself. We noted the report.

Progress Update Business Planning 2019/20

34. Rebecca Aziz-Brook, Transformation Programme Co-Ordinator, presented the report which set out the progress of delivery for the level projects outlined in the service business plans.
35. A review of 15 business plans for 2019/20 had been completed based on the information provided within the MyProjects system and discussions with service leads. The plans identified

an overall total of 141 projects and of those, 111 were ongoing (77.1%), 19 were complete (13.2%), 1 was closed (0.7%) and 10 had not been started (7.1%).

36. All services were asked to complete a service level risk register during the business planning process. The key risks themes identified are around staff resources and capability, ICT facilities, operational demands, budget and funding provision and reputational damage.
37. We noted that the first residents would be moving into Primrose Gardens the following week. By the end of November there would be around 55 apartments occupied. The rent was affordable rent, but due to the nature of the facility and the services provided the rent would not be as low as a privately rented apartment.
38. The Strawberry Fields Digital Office Park development was now operational. We noted the challenges relating to the access road. The Members' Allowances Scheme was due to be reviewed by the Independent Remuneration Panel in the autumn and the development of a new graduate recruitment scheme was intended to develop and retain high calibre officers in certain areas. We noted the report.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY TASK GROUPS

Overview and Scrutiny Task Group – Development of the Council's Green Agenda

39. The Task Group on Developing the Council's Green Agenda commenced in September 2019, with Cllr Steve Holgate appointed as Chair and Cllr Paul Sloan as Vice-Chair. The Task Group considered the scope of the inquiry and discussed their objectives, outcomes, and who they wanted to interview as part of the review. Members set out by recognising the current position of the Council, identifying what the council could influence and the resources that may be required.
40. The Task Group had met three times since September and had undertaken several sub-group meetings to consult with as many stakeholders as possible. Site visits to Lancaster City Council and GA Pet Food Partners Manufacturing Site in Bretherton had also taken place to help gather the evidence. From this, interim recommendations had been proposed in line with the budget proposals. The final report was being drafted and it was anticipated that this would be taken to Executive Cabinet in March for approval.

Recommendation

41. That the report be noted.

COUNCILLOR JOHN WALKER
CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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