

REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. This report summarises the business considered at the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 23 January, 27 February and 2 July 2020, the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel meetings held on 30 January and 5 March 2020 and includes an update on the task group review.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 23 JANUARY 2020

Budget Scrutiny

2. The Executive Member for Resources, Councillor Peter Wilson, presented the report which set out the budget position for 2020/21 including the forecast for the following two years to 2022/23 and also presented proposals in respect of the use of forecast resources identified in 2020/21 as well as consultation on the budget.
3. The budget forecasts over the next 3 years had been updated to take account of the following;
 - Due to the investments made by the Council and the efficiencies achieved, there was no proposed increase in council tax in 2020/21
 - There was no proposed increase in council tax in 2021/2022 or 2022/23, this would be revisited every year and would be dependent on upon the outcome of the Government announcements regarding the Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Retention.
 - Continued investment of approximately £1million that would deliver corporate strategy priorities
 - Strategies to reduce the budget deficit in the medium term.
4. We were advised that 2019-20 was due to be the final year of the Government's four-year Settlement, however following the Spending Round 2019, councils would receive a further one-year Settlement as the planned changes from the Fair Funding Review and 75% Business Rates retention had been delayed by at least one year until April 2021 at the earliest.
5. Chorley Council benefitted in 2019/20 from being a member of the Lancashire 75% business rates pilot. The spending round 2019 announced that all 75% pilots would be disbanded. The budget assumed that in 2020/21 the council would revert to member of the Lancashire business rates pool as per the guidance from Government. The spending review also announced a gradual reduction and ultimate removal of New Homes Bonus.
6. With regards to Council Tax, the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement announced a council tax referendum principle of up to 2% in 2020/21. The council expects a gradual slowdown in house building over the coming three years, however there were still sites coming forward. An average 1.5% expansion of the base was forecast in the draft budget for 2021/22 onwards.
7. Following discussion on the slowdown in house building, we were advised that this was in relation to previous years where the borough had experienced an increase in house building e.g. the development of Buckshaw. The Executive Member undertook to find out the specific house building numbers.
8. As part of the triennial pension review the Lancashire County Pension Fund announced an increase in employer pension contributions for 2020/21 to 2022/23 to meet the future costs of the scheme. The contributions had increased from 14.4% to 16.4% resulting in an increase in

the council's contribution. This was lower than the 17.7% assumed in the previous year's budget.

9. We welcomed the reduction in the contributions to the pension deficit and that the Lancashire County Pension Fund had outperformed most local authority pension funds over the past 3 years. Looking forward the pension fund provided figures that forecast Chorley Council's contribution to the prior year deficit which would reduce by approximately £500k, reducing the council's budgeted contributions by over £1.5m over the next three years.
10. Funding to Chorley Council had fallen from over £17m in 2016/17 to a forecast figure of under £12m by 2022/2023. During this period the council will continue to experience inflationary increases in staff and non-staff budgets. However, the council had been ambitious in its approach to meeting the budget deficit through generating efficiency savings and additional income.
11. We recognised that the council had been successful in keeping costs down whilst continuing to provide the high-quality services expected from its residents. The council would continue to invest within Chorley borough to generate income and therefore make the council less reliant on the increasingly uncertain funding from Government.
12. We discussed how the Flower Show could be made more profitable and suggested that more advertising could be done, including greater use of parish council noticeboards. We also discussed the options available for the council in maintaining the bus station, regenerating the traditional markets and in-house procurement for the leisure contract.
13. Despite the identified budget savings there remained large forecast budget deficits of £1.206m in 2021/22 and £2.093m in 2022/23. To achieve a sufficient reduction in net expenditure the Council's strategy would be:
 1. To realise savings through the procurement of its contracts
 2. To identify the efficiencies through investment in infrastructure and through exploring alternative delivery models that will enable the Council to balance the budget whilst seeking to minimise the impact on the front-line service users
 3. To make the Council more financially self-sufficient with specific emphasis on creating investment that generates income.
14. Through these strategies the council will balance its budget in the medium term.
15. We understood that consultation on the proposed budget for 2020/21 would commence following approval of the proposals by Executive Cabinet. The consultation would invite responses from residents, partners, parish groups and other stakeholders through a variety of methods including a short survey (available both in hard copy and online). Results would be analysed and published in February for consideration as part of the budget finalisation.
16. We thanked Cllr Peter Wilson and James Thomson for attending the meeting and presenting the report. We noted the report.

Health Scrutiny

17. We were advised that the last meeting of the Lancashire County Council's Health Scrutiny had been cancelled and there was no update at this time. The next meeting was scheduled for 4 February 2020; therefore, Councillor Margaret France would provide an update at the meeting on 19 March. We noted the update.

Review of Neighbourhood Working following the Boundary Review

18. Following the boundary review and upcoming all-out elections in May 2020, it was agreed that neighbourhood working and neighbourhood area meetings would need to be reviewed.
19. We proposed that a special meeting take place on Thursday, 27 February at 6.30pm to address this. It was agreed that the Chairs of each of the neighbourhood area meetings also be invited attend this meeting. The Committee agreed the approach and the importance of addressing this.

Executive Cabinet Response to the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group on Social Housing Standards

20. At its meeting on 1 August 2019, the Executive Cabinet agreed 29 out of the 31 recommendations put forward by the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group on the Quality of Social Housing, with an alternative solution for the remaining two. It was agreed that the majority of the Task Group's recommendations, with the exclusion of item 12 and 13, were incorporated into a social Housing Standards Charter, to be developed and agreed with the Registered Housing Providers.
21. We welcomed the response and the Chair advised that a monitoring report would be coming to the Committee later in the year. We noted the Executive Cabinet response.

Reports from the Task and Finish Groups

22. Cllr Paul Sloan, Vice-Chair of the Task Group informed Members of the work that had been undertaken to date as part of the Task Group Inquiry. This included sub-group meetings with Chorley Council officers and external partners and site visits to Lancaster City Council and GA Pet Food Partners Manufacturing Site in Bretherton to observe best practice. A position statement was created which included where the council currently sat in comparison to other councils and the estimated costings going forward which fed into the 2020/21 budget proposals.
23. We were advised that officers were in the process of drafting the final report. This would be taken to the Task Group at a special meeting on 11 February, before being circulated to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 27 February. Once agreed, this would be taken to the Executive Cabinet in March for approval. We noted the verbal update.

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

24. We considered the work programme for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Performance Panel and task group topic areas for 2019/20. The Chair highlighted how busy the Committee had been in the year to date and following the meeting in March would have addressed all the topics outlined within the work programme. We noted the work programme.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 27 FEBRUARY 2020

Reports from the Task and Finish Groups

25. Councillor Steve Holgate, Chair of the Task and Finish Group, presented the final report of the Task Group on Developing the Council's Green Agenda to the Committee.
26. We were advised that since its commencement in September 2019, the Task Group met numerous times and undertook several sub-group meetings to consult with as many stakeholders as possible to help build an evidence base. Site visits to Lancaster City Council

and GA Pet Food Partners Manufacturing Site in Bretherton also took place as well as students from Parklands High School meeting with Members in the Town Hall to discuss their concerns with regards to climate change.

27. Funding had been secured as part of the budget process to further the council's commitment to become a carbon-neutral borough by 2030. The funding would help to appoint a climate change officer as well as setting aside reserves to help develop local climate change initiatives such as tree planting schemes.
28. The recommendations put forward were based on the evidence collated by the Task Group and if approved by the Executive Cabinet in March, would be progressed through the recommended governance arrangements including a Member Steering Group.
29. We discussed the report, in particular, public transport and bus routes through Chorley, how supermarkets can reduce their usage of plastics, green accreditations for local businesses, solar panels and the inclusion of the green agenda in the Local Plan. We were advised that this would all be considered in further detail by the proposed Steering Group.
30. Councillor Steve Holgate thanked Councillors and officers, as well as external partners, for their contributions to the inquiry. We commended and noted the report.

Review of Neighbourhood Working following the Boundary Review

31. The Committee received a report of the Director of Early Intervention and Support to help Members make recommendations for new neighbourhood areas following the ward boundary review to be submitted to Executive Cabinet for approval.
32. Bernie Heggarty, Neighbourhood Priorities Officer, advised that a review of Neighbourhood Working was due to be undertaken and whilst the review was undertaken, it was important that the delivery of the programme be maintained throughout 2020/21. The first task of the review was to create new Neighbourhood Areas as a result of the ward boundary changes which would come into effect in May 2020. The proposed recommendation would then be presented to the Executive Cabinet for approval.
33. When considering the options provided, Members were keen that the meetings in June and July 2020 go ahead as the meetings in January and February had been cancelled.
34. During discussion, we expressed concerns about progressing new groupings without considering the full review of neighbourhood working. It was suggested that the detailed review needed to consider issues such as funding (including CIL monies), representation at meetings including consideration of parished and non-parished areas, definition of neighbourhood working and defining the criteria for projects.
35. Following debate and a vote on the proposals, we recommended to Executive Cabinet that the forthcoming Neighbourhood Area Meetings take place on a ward basis, with the funding being split equally between the 14 wards, for a temporary 12-month period until the full review of the neighbourhood working had taken place. We also recommended that a working group be set up in the municipal year to undertake the full review and make recommendations back to the Executive Cabinet.

Crime and Disorder Scrutiny

36. The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 state that “A crime and disorder committee shall meet to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions as the committee considers appropriate but no less than once in every twelve month period”.
37. In line with the regulations, Laura-Jean Taylor, Public Protection Team Leader presented the draft Community Safety Partnership Action Plan to the committee. We were to be minded that the appendix to the item was confidential and was therefore treated in that nature.
38. The report provided a summary of the work undertaken and planned interventions to reduce and tackle crime and disorder, through fulfilling relevant obligations in connection with Section 5 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015.
39. We were advised that work on the action plan had been put on hold due to Covid-19 however this draft document would form the basis for the 2021-23 report. The action plan did not duplicate measures already in place.
40. We discussed different aspects of the Community Safety Partnership Action Plan including;
 - Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE); a report on CSE was overdue – this had been put on hold due to Covid-19, but progress would be made.
 - Road safety: a week of action had taken place during lockdown in which 6 vehicles had been seized. No increase in number of cars speeding during lockdown had been report.
 - Motorcycle nuisance: there had been an increase in motorcycle/off-road bike nuisance. Members discussed the enforcement powers available to the council
41. We noted the Draft Community Safety Partnership Action Plan.

Overview and Scrutiny Task Group – Child Sexual Exploitation – Monitoring of Recommendations

42. Laura-Jean Taylor, Public Protection Team Leader presented the report of the Deputy Chief Executive which provided an update on the progress made in responding to the recommendations made by the overview and scrutiny task and finish group on tackling child sexual exploitation (CSE) in August 2017.
43. We noted that the majority of the recommendations had been completed or were ongoing. These recommendations included training for the taxi trade which had been completed in 2017/18, online training available via Emerge, and all regulatory service officers had undergone the training. Work had also been undertaken in schools to raise CSE awareness and CSE Leads had been appointed in the borough’s high schools. Meetings with the police and with partnerships such as the Community Safety Partnership and PIVOT were taking place on a regular basis.
44. We were advised that the only recommendation which had not been completed was the wider trade being invited to attend training as part of the CSE Awareness Week. On looking into this, officers recognised that this was not feasible due to the scope of the exercise. It was agreed that alternative ways to address this training gap of the wider licensing trade

would be considered. We suggested offering the training on a voluntary basis which they could book onto themselves.

45. We recognised that while many of the original actions and recommendations had been implemented, it was important to note that many related to training and awareness raising. It was important that this continued to ensure that Officers and Members are aware of the risk of CSE and the processes that are in place to protect children. Work over the next twelve months would include:
- a) Refresher training for members of the Licensing and Public Safety Committee (this was due in July 2020 but will now be undertaken at a later date due to Covid-19).
 - b) Awareness raising for Members about safeguarding and CSE (Member Learning Session)
 - c) Continued development of the training for the taxi trade around CSE, including the introduction of online taxi trade knowledge test that covers CSE.
46. We discussed work which had been undertaken in addressing the issue of exploitation of young boys in particular. In partnership with Inspire Youth Zone and the police, two sessions had taken place to address this. Six people attended the sessions and had been in regular contact since. It was agreed that a Member Learning Session be delivered as a refresher on CSE.
47. We also discussed the issue of cyber exploitation. It was agreed that this be investigated and incorporated into the Community Safety Partnership Action Plan going forward. We noted the update.

Overview and Scrutiny Task Group – Rollout of Superfast Broadband by BT – Monitoring of Recommendations

48. Rachel Salter, Interim Service Lead for Development and Business presented the report which updated the Committee on the implementation of recommendations made by the inquiry on the roll out of superfast broadband which reported to the Executive Cabinet in August 2017.
49. We were advised that progression had stalled due to Covid-19 and therefore the update was similar to that due to come to the committee in March 2020. The updates included:
- Virgin hadn't shared any plans with Lancashire County Council (LCC), but BT had. BT are reviewing coverage at Buckshaw, Rivington and White Coppice.
 - The Government's target was for full fibre coverage by 2025, therefore the council was continuing to push for funding.
 - The Council engaged with businesses regarding the Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme (these were still available for rural businesses)
 - A project was underway to review and refresh the Council's website (this included an investigation of the options available for integration between MyAccount and E-Citizen which will be looked at by the ICT team).
 - The next phase of the Wi-Fi rollout has begun with fibre being laid up the length of Market Street and around the new Market Walk Extension.
50. The Committee recognised that digital connectivity was more important than ever and would need to be included in the recovery plans post-Covid. In line with this, we thanked Simon Charnock, Digital Transformation Officer for all his work in delivering digital skills training in the communities.

51. We recognised that a lot of work had been undertaken on this but there was still work to be done. This needed to be monitored, especially in the rural villages and pressure must be kept on the providers. Councillor Kim Snape reported that residents in White Coppice had seen a slow improvement in the area.
52. It was agreed that conversations be held with LCC to help progress the improvements in advance of the next meeting. The Committee also suggested that LCC attend a meeting in later in the year. We noted the update.

Scrutiny Reporting Back: Chorley Council's Annual Report on Overview and Scrutiny in 2019/20

53. The Committee received the annual report that summarised the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Performance Panel and Task Group which had taken place in 2019/20.
54. One task group established by the committee undertook a review on Developing the Council's Green Agenda. We had continued to receive six-monthly monitoring reports following the Executive Cabinet's response on the implementation of outcomes and measured success from past scrutiny reviews.
55. Following the outbreak of the global Covid-19 pandemic, the final meeting of the municipal year in March had to be cancelled, therefore items including Crime and Disorder Scrutiny, the Air Quality Strategy and task group monitoring reports would be considered in the next municipal year.
56. The Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel focused on the performance elements of scrutiny and considered all monitoring information. Each Directorate was scrutinised in turn. In addition to challenging the Executive Members through the Performance Panel, we worked together positively with the Executive Leader and the Executive Cabinet in scrutinising their proposals.
57. Other topics we considered included financial scrutiny of the budget, GRT encampments, the Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities, the Syrian Refugee Resettlement Programme, subsidised bus services, the New Waste and Recycling Collection Contract update, a review of neighbourhood working following the boundary review as well as regular updates on the LCC Health Scrutiny Steering Group.
58. The Chair highlighted how much work had been undertaken over the last year and thanked Members and Officers who had been involved throughout the year for all of their work. We noted the annual report and confirmed that it be forwarded to the next Council meeting on 21 July as required in the Council's constitution.

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

59. The Committee considered the work programme for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Performance Panel and task group topic areas for 2020/21. We discussed the topic for the next Task Group review. In doing so, we noted that air pollution and adoption of estates will be considered at the next meeting in October.
60. Following discussion of various topics, we agreed that the work programme be noted and the next task group review would consider sustainable public transport in the borough and would subsequently review the council's response to Covid-19 in the new year.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE PANEL – 30 JANUARY 2020

Performance Focus – Customer and Digital

61. We welcomed Chris Sinnott, Director (Policy & Governance) and Councillor Peter Wilson, Deputy Leader and Executive Member (Resources), to the meeting. 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 two.
62. It was reported that the directorate budget was underspending by just under £82k, creating a 1.7% variance against the original cash budget. The biggest underspend was in staffing due to an underspend of £50k as a result of sharing the Chief Executive post with South Ribble and an underspend of £40k from Shared Financial Services as a result of the vacant posts following the senior management restructure and review of the service. With regards to key performance information overall, of the 40 indicators, 31 (78%) were performing on or above target, 3 (8%) were performing worse than target but within the threshold and 6 (14%) were performing below target.
63. We noted that the Policy and Governance directorate would be responsible for some high-profile projects as part of next year's corporate strategy delivery including renovation works at Astley Hall, the refresh of the Council's website, delivering Shared Services, and delivery of sustainable public services and the green agenda, and Councillor Wilson praised officers leading on those projects.
64. Members queried where Shared Services was up to. It was noted that appointments to shared posts were made before Christmas which would go live from 1 April but were currently working in shadow form. Also, from 1 April staff would be transferred between South Ribble and Chorley, with the Finance, and Transformation and Partnerships teams being employed by Chorley, and Communications and Visitor Economy, and Democratic and Legal Services being employed by South Ribble.
65. In general, the employing Council would be the base for that team, however some site-dependent roles (e.g. Democratic Services) would transfer to South Ribble as their employer but would not move physically. We were concerned that communication with officers would change and it was noted that this was likely; although staff from each team would be available at both sites, appointments might replace drop-in meetings.
66. Officers were currently concentrating on seating arrangements and ensuring access to systems, but a larger piece of work was underway to align terms and conditions and it was noted that a full review of services and likely restructures would take place after 1 April. In response to Members' queries regarding the TUPE protection period, we noted that no protection period was needed until there was significant business reason to change terms and conditions and only one intended measure was being implemented at this stage; a change in date for salary payments.
67. With regards to involvement of the unions, we noted that officers had been meeting on a monthly basis with South Ribble's Unison branch and that Chorley's Unison branch had recently agreed to re-engage with the process. Pay scales were one of the things that needed to be aligned as, although both Councils used the same spinal column points, they operated different grade structures. It was noted that pay was protected up to a limit of £5,000 under the current

policy in both Councils, with 12 months full protection and part-protection after that. In response to Members' follow-up queries, we noted that the intention was to align terms and conditions, not make anyone financially worse off.

68. Members were concerned about the effect on staff morale and urged officers to ensure clear communication regarding harmonisation was carried out in an open and structured way. We noted that the previous delays to Shared Services had resulted in staff resignations, so officers were driving changes through now the vision and strategy were clear.
69. With regards to other aspects of the Directorate's performance, Members queried the revenue figures for the Lancastrian Suite, and it was noted that these reflected the cancellations of pre-Christmas events due to the general election. We queried sickness absence performance figures and noted that there had been a reduction in long term sickness but not for short-term absences. It was advised that return to work interviews were key to making improvements in order to identify and address issues, particularly for mental health illnesses. We noted the report.

Quarter 2 Performance Monitoring 2019/20

70. We considered a monitoring report from the Director (Policy and Governance) which was presented at the Executive Cabinet on 14 November 2019. Rebecca Aziz-Brook, Transformation Programme Co-Ordinator, advised that the report set out the performance against the delivery of the Corporate Strategy and key performance indicators during the second quarter of 2019/20, 1 July to 30 September 2019.
71. Overall, performance of key projects was excellent, with 11 (92%) of the projects rated as green or complete and one (8%) project currently rated as amber with the action plan for this project contained within the report. In response to Members' queries, it was noted that the outline proposal for Shady Lane was being reconsidered but progress was expected this year.
72. Performance of the Corporate Strategy indicators and key service delivery measures was also excellent with 100% of Corporate Strategy measures and 88% of key service delivery measures performing on or above target or within the 5% threshold. We noted that those indicators performing below target had action plans outlined with measures to improve performance.
73. We queried the missed bin performance, and it was noted this was largely down to the changes to the collection rounds and use of agency staff. Financial deductions were now being made from FCC's monthly contract payments for failing to meet agreed standards, and FCC were recruiting more permanent staff. In response to Members' questions it was advised that a missed bin collection reported on non-collection day would not count in these figures, and that technology to confirm whether a bin had been put out was now in place and would be used once the issues with existing rounds had been resolved.
74. Members discussed the 2019 Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) update released by the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government. We noted that the overall message for Chorley was positive with the borough now less deprived than it was in 2015, but that Chorley North East and Coppull did not follow this trend and were more deprived. Members queried how this was being addressed and it was noted that the issues were very complex and, as they were difficult to address directly, more emphasis was being placed on prioritising these areas when planning community engagement. We noted the report.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE PANEL – 5 MARCH 2020

Performance Focus – Commercial Services

75. We welcomed Mark Lester, Director of Commercial Services and Councillor Alistair Bradley, Executive Leader and Executive Member (Economic Development and Public Service Reform), to the meeting. Victoria Willett, Service Lead - Transformation and Partnerships, 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.
76. The recent senior management restructure changed some of the services within the Directorate. The functions that make up the Commercial Services directorate are:
- Accommodation – operational management of the Council's housing units, including Cotswold Supported Housing and Primrose Gardens Extra Care Scheme.
 - Market Walk and Town Centre – management of Market Walk shopping centre, Chorley Markets, town centre car parks and borough wide CCTV monitoring services.
 - Property and Facilities – the asset management and maintenance of all council owned buildings and assets.
77. Members noted that there had been difficulties in recruiting to some specialised posts, but these have now been appointed to.
78. We noted that there was an overspend across the Directorate, but Councillor Bradley advised that this reflected the nature of the Directorate in delivering projects and taking investment opportunities as they arise.
79. We also noted that some performance indicators were not within the Council's control, such as those relating to the European Regional Development Fund. It was also not possible to measure Cotswold Supported Housing in the usual way due to the nature of the service.
80. We were advised that the Directorate was not in the scope for phase one of Shared Services, but officers were proactively working closely with colleagues at South Ribble. This included the potential to share an agency surveyor and sharing knowledge on IDOX software which is used by both authorities.
81. We were informed that there was a shortage of developed land for businesses to occupy. Developers make more money from housing land and the council face difficulties when developers are successful in changing the use of land from business to housing. There were not many brownfield sites in Chorley. The Leader expressed his wish to incentivise businesses to move to Chorley from Manchester and Liverpool. This would have the added benefit of reducing commuting distances in line with the council's green aspirations. This was a complex issue.
82. Members queried the current position regarding the Shady Lane and Alker Lane sites. It was hoped that full planning permission will be submitted in the summer, but it was reported that the Shady Lane site was more difficult. Councillor Bradley explained there were projects in the pipeline, including at Tatton and within the town centre. We noted the report.

Business Planning Update

83. We considered a monitoring report from the Deputy Chief Executive which provided an update on the progress of delivery for the service level projects outlined in the service business plans. Victoria Willett, Service Lead - Transformation and Partnerships, presented the report and explained that a similar approach will be taken to the previous year including engagement with staff, the production of a plan on a page per service and monitoring/reporting through the

MyProjects system. This year there would be a focus on identifying interdependencies between departments and projects where support would be needed from the newly formed Programme Management Office.

84. A review of 15 business plans produced last year had been completed with an overall total of 136 projects and of those 93 were ongoing (69%), 34 were complete (25%), 2 were closed (1%) and 7 had not started (5%). Members welcomed the approach of an away day to deliver business planning sessions with staff to engage them in the process.
85. We discussed the learning curve undertaken in supporting the Syrian resettlement programme and noted that it was not known at the current time if more families would be coming to Chorley. The learning, particularly around interpretation to get to the root of issues, would be taken forward to support any future families.
86. It was reported that recruitment processes would be revised following the implementation of shared services on 1 April. We commented on the positive work the council was undertaking for the residents of Chorley. We noted the report.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY TASK GROUPS

Overview and Scrutiny Task Group – Developing the Council’s Green Agenda

87. At the meeting on 11 February, Members of the Task Group considered the draft final report and made amendments to the recommendations.
88. Following this, the report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 27 February where the Chair of the Task Group thanked Councillors and officers, as well as external partners, for their contributions to the inquiry. The Committee commended and noted the report.
89. Subsequently, the final report was considered by the Executive Cabinet where all of the recommendations were approved, and it was agreed to develop an action plan to expedite the green agenda as a corporate priority. A response from the Executive Cabinet would be provided at the next meeting. We noted the update.