



MINUTES OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING DATE Thursday, 2 July 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor John Walker (Chair), Councillor Roy Lees (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Peter Gabbott, Yvonne Hargreaves, Hasina Khan, Marion Lowe, Matthew Lynch, June Molyneaux, Debra Platt, Paul Sloan and Kim Snape

OFFICERS: Chris Moister (Director of Governance), Laura-Jean Taylor (Public Protection Team Leader), Rachel Salter (Interim Service Lead - Development and Business), Portia Taylor-Black (Business Engagement Officer) and Nina Neisser (Democratic and Member Services Officer)

APOLOGIES: Councillor Alex Hilton

20.OS.75 Minutes of meeting Thursday, 23 January 2020 of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Decision: That the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 23 January 2020 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chair.

20.OS.76 Minutes of meeting Thursday, 27 February 2020 of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Decision: That the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 27 February 2020 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chair.

20.OS.77 Minutes of Meeting Thursday, 30 January 2020 of Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel

Decision: That the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel held on 30 January 2020 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chair.

20.OS.78 Minutes of Meeting Thursday, 5 March 2020 of Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel

Decision: That the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel held on 5 March 2020 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chair.

20.OS.79 Declarations of Any Interests

There were no declarations of interest received.

20.OS.80 Public Questions

There were no public questions for consideration.

20.OS.81 Executive Cabinet Minutes

Decision: That the minutes of the Executive Cabinet meetings held on 16 January, 13 February, and 18 June 2020 be noted.

20.OS.82 Notice of Executive Decisions

Members of the Committee considered the Notice of Executive Decisions for June 2020 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.

20.OS.83 Crime and Disorder Scrutiny

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”.

In line with the regulations, Laura-Jean Taylor, Public Protection Team Leader presented the draft Community Safety Partnership Action Plan to Members of the committee. Members were to be minded that the appendix to the item was confidential and was therefore treated in that nature.

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.

Chorley Council are fulfilling their obligation under Section 5 Crime & Disorder Act 1998 through actively engaging with the established Community Safety Partnership and implementing required actions and interventions concerning crime and disorder within the partnership area.

The Council are also fulfilling their statutory obligations under Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 that requires all specified authorities to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.

Members 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.

The Committee 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

Decision – That the Draft Community Safety Partnership Action Plan be noted.

20.OS.84 Overview and Scrutiny Task Group - Child Sexual Exploitation - Monitoring of Recommendations

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.

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.

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. Members suggested offering the training on a voluntary basis which they could book onto themselves.

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.

Members 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.

Members 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.

Decision – That the update be noted.

20.OS.85 Overview and Scrutiny Task Group - Roll out of Superfast Broadband by BT - Monitoring of Recommendations

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.

Members 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.

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, Members thanked Simon Charnock, Digital Transformation Officer for all his work in delivering digital skills training in the communities.

Members 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.

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.

Decision – That the update be noted.

20.OS.86 Scrutiny Reporting Back: Chorley Council's Annual Report on Overview and Scrutiny in 2019/20

Members 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.

One task group established by the committee undertook a review on Developing the Council's Green Agenda. The Committee 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.

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.

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, the Committee worked together positively with the Executive Leader and the Executive Cabinet in scrutinising their proposals.

Other topics 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.

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.

Decision: That the annual report be noted and forwarded to the next Council meeting on 21 July as required in the Council's constitution.

20.OS.87 Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

The Committee considered the work programme for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Performance Panel, and task group topic areas for 2020/21.

Members discussed the topic for the next Task Group review. In doing so, members noted that air pollution and adoption of estates will be considered at the next meeting in October.

Following discussion of various topics, members agreed that 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.

Decision:

- **That the work programme be noted;**
- **The topic for the next Task Group will look at sustainable public transport in the borough**

Chair

Date