

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 7 July 2022 and an update on the Task Group Review of Select Move.

Health Scrutiny

2. We welcomed Councillor Alex Hilton to provide a verbal update from Lancashire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee, which featured the new hospital programme announced by the government.
3. The Government's directive is to build 40 new, fit for purpose, state of the art hospitals. Royal Preston Hospital and Royal Lancaster Infirmary are both identified as possessing aging infrastructure, with increasing costs of maintenance while struggling to meet the demands of modern health care.
4. In March 2022, a shortlist of four options was published.
 - A new Royal Lancaster Infirmary with partial rebuild of Royal Preston Hospital
 - A new Royal Preston Hospital with partial rebuild of Royal Lancaster Infirmary
 - Investment into both hospitals with partial rebuilds
 - Two brand new hospitals.
5. The favoured option of the Health Scrutiny Committee is for two new hospitals to be built, although the option has not formally endorsed by the Committee. The project requires further detailed analysis, land availability exploration, planning and affordability consideration.
6. The budget for the project is provided by central government, the figures have not been disclosed or confirmed, although the BBC report a shortfall in finances due to ongoing and present situations.
7. The Health Scrutiny Committee is confident that any new hospital will feature a phased, but efficient transition across the sites.
8. Once the decision is made, work is to begin in 2025 with a completion date in 2030. The project is currently out for consultation collecting feedback.
9. To incentivise and attract staff, a worker housing scheme is being considered.
10. Members of the Health Scrutiny Committee were assured that Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust will continue to invest in the Chorley Hospital Site and there are no plans to close the hospital. The result of the new hospital programme, when published, will likely facilitate clinical decisions on which services will be offered at Chorley Hospital.
11. We heard that Scrutiny at Lancashire County Council was changing, and the Health Scrutiny Committee will now be the Health and Adult Services Committee. The Districts representation will remain the same.
12. Members of the County Council informed us that the role of Health Scrutiny at Lancashire County Council is to scrutinise any matter relating to the planning provision, operation, or provision of health services in the area. The scope is narrower

than often perceived, and the focus is on matters the County Council have responsibility for and can influence.

13. Members wish to push forward concerns that Chorley residents have in gaining access to NHS dental services. The next meeting of the Lancashire County Council Health and Adult Services Committee takes place 13 July 2022 and Councillor Margaret France will be in attendance.
14. We noted the update

Quality of Housing Provided by Social Landlords – Monitoring Report 2

15. We welcomed Director of Communities – Jennifer Mullin, Housing Solutions Manager – Rachel Stewart and Executive Member for Homes and Housing Councillor Terry Howarth.
16. We received a brief overview of the report and the actions taken against the recommendations made.
17. Learning sessions around housing issues with Members is being undertaken by Rachel Stewart, the first session was held in September 2021, and the next is to take place in the autumn.
18. The Council works closely with Registered Partners in Chorley and the number of Disabled Facilities Grants has increased by 50%.
19. Lancashire County Council is employing additional occupational therapists to work in Central Lancashire which will clear the backlog caused by Covid-19.
20. A recommendation was for the Government to be lobbied in respect of greater regulation of Registered Partners. Significant reform is taking place, a green paper, a white paper, and a bill have been introduced. Chorley will not be the regulatory authority with the new reforms but will continue to work closely with the Registered Partners to ensure adherence.
21. A Chorley Good Homes Charter has not yet been finalised, this is due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and the delay in the introduction of legislation. The Council is working closely with Registered Partners to assist in the implementation and act in accordance with the Charter.
22. The Select Move Coordinator is in post, and is working alongside the Registered Providers, the Steering Group, and working to proactively progress the Charter ahead of legislative reforms, however, the time scale for implementation is not yet known. Covid-19 changed the picture relating to resources.
23. The remit of the Select Move Coordinator covers the two recommendations not advanced, the resident association and a Housing Sector Working Group. Capacity is available to keep up with legislation changes and provide the recommended oversight.
24. For issues facing residents, Jigsaw Homes now have a dedicated email for Councillors to email on behalf of their residents.
25. We raised the recommendation about ward walks and proposed that one is organised in the near future.

26. We noted the report.

Scrutiny Reporting Back: Chorley Council's Annual Report on Overview and Scrutiny in 2021/22

27. I introduced the report written by the supporting Democratic and Member Services Officer highlighting the past year's activity. I thanked all members of the committee and the officers that attended and presented their reports, enabling an effective year of Scrutiny at Chorley Council.
28. We noted the report.

Reports from the Task and Finish Groups

29. Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group – Select Move, Councillor Sarah Ainsworth updated us that there had been no meeting of the Task Group since the last Overview and Scrutiny Committee, however, all future dates of the Task Group are set, with the next meeting is to take place Monday, 25 July at 6:30pm.
30. We heard that there has been a delay in the distribution of the survey which went to 2500 users of Select Move. This delay is disappointing to the Chair of the Task Group, although it is not expected to cause additional delays. Early indication suggests a good rate of response. The results of the survey are to be the subject of the meeting in August.
31. We expect that the final report for the Task Group will be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 6 October 2022.
32. We noted the update

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

33. We discussed the year's Work Programme that was formulated following a training and workshop session in June 2022.
34. We acknowledged that the topic of Customer Services was not an item on the years Work Programme as the first Performance Panel taking place 27 July 2022 is Customer and Digital, and features Executive Member, Customer, Streetscene and Environment, Adrian Lowe, and Director (Customer and Digital) Asim Khan.
35. It was clarified that the topic of Cycling was agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the Committee 17 March 2022, during the 'Sustainable Public Transport Second Monitoring Report' that *'The Committee endorse the proposed Cycling Project (paragraph 10) as an appropriate way to develop the cycling offer in the borough which supersedes the original recommendation to develop a cycling task group.'*
36. Crime and Disorder scrutiny will feature this year, but due to a change in staff, the process of finding a date is ongoing. We raised the idea of inviting the Police and Crime Commissioner to a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, but Members felt that it would be more suited to a Member Learning Session open to all Members of the Council.

37. We reiterated that the Work Programme was a living document and new items can be raised by any Member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration as a report item or the basis of a Task Group.
38. We noted and approved the Work Programme.

Recommendations

39. To note the report.

Councillor John Walker
Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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