

REPORT OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND TASK AND FINISH GROUPS

1. This report summarises the business transacted at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's held on 9 and 31 August 2010, as well as a brief summary of the recent activities and matters discussed at meetings that have taken place of the Task and Finish Groups.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 9 AUGUST 2010

Refocusing the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

2. The Committee received a report of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee asking Members to consider a range of changes to the current overview and scrutiny arrangements in Chorley.
3. The Members agreed to receive six monthly monitoring reports on the Councils performance in future, instead of quarterly. It was acknowledged that they would continue to be produced quarterly for the Executive Cabinet agenda and that the focus on future Overview and Scrutiny Committees would be the scrutiny of Executive Cabinet decisions.
4. Members acknowledged that Chorley operated a very open style of Executive Cabinet whereby any Councillor can go along to any Executive Cabinet meeting, speak on and try to influence any decision. It was felt that Overview and scrutiny Committee would benefit more from scrutinising the decisions of the previous Executive Cabinet instead of the forthcoming reports.
5. The Committee also agreed that it would in future request that the Executive formally consult the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at an early stage, on the budget principles to be applied and share information available on the Council's financial position at the appropriate time.

Overview of PACT meetings; the MATAC and Mini MATAC process and Member communication

6. The Head of Environment, Joint Crime and Disorder Manager and Chief Inspector Richard Robertshaw presented a report that gave an overview of the Police and Communities Together meetings, the MATAC and Mini MATAC process and Member communication about Community Safety matters.
7. It was agreed that a sanitised version of the minutes of the MATAC and mini MATAC meetings would start to be distributed to Elected Members and that officers would continue to explore different ways of involving Members in the process and keeping them better engaged.

Executive's Response to the Overview and Scrutiny Inquiry into Affordable Housing

8. The Committee received a copy of the report considered by the Executive Cabinet. The report endorsed all the recommendations made by the Affordable Housing Inquiry and outlined how all the actions would be delivered.

Executive's Response to the Overview and Scrutiny Inquiry into Town Centre Vitality

9. The Committee received a copy of the report considered by the Executive Cabinet. The report endorsed all the recommendations made by the Town Centre Vitality Inquiry and outlined how all the actions would be delivered.

Performance of Key Partnerships – 2009/10 Year End Report

10. The Committee considered a report of the Director of Transformation providing Members with a corporate update on the performance of the Council's key partnership arrangements during 2009/10.
11. The report outlined information required by the Council's framework for partnership working, including the performance of the Council's key partnerships against targets set for the current year; an assessment of the partner's financial strengths and stability; and any emerging issues that required to be addressed.
12. It was reported that in the current financial climate the financial position of partner organisations were being monitored.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 31 August 2010

Executive Cabinet – 12 August 2010

13. Members considered the minutes of the last Executive Cabinet meeting under the new arrangements and discussions took place in relation to the following items:

Overview and Scrutiny Task Group' Inquiry into Highways Issues – Executive Response

- Comments on LCC public realm and locality working

Chorley Partnership – Performance Monitoring Report for First Quarter of 2010/11

- Comments about Local Enterprise Partnerships in Lancashire

2012 Olympic Games – Action Plan

- Comments on the use of local venues for the Olympics, the Iron Man Competition and tourism implications for the Borough with a potential Scrutiny review of tourism in the future.

Alleygates Schemes

- Comments on communicating with residents; evaluating the success of the Alleygate Scheme; a request that the Executive Member (Places) attend the Committee in six months time to discuss the effects of discontinuing the scheme.

Local Strategic Partnership – Monitoring Report

14. The Committee received a report providing an update on progress made against the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Inquiry report on the Local Strategic Partnership.

15. The purpose of the Inquiry had been to better understand how the Local Strategic Partnership works with the Council and the extra value that it provided against three main objectives around engagement, capacity to deliver and how the LSP could help to tackle on of the big issues of the Borough in relation to alcohol harm related hospital admissions.
16. Partners had worked together to develop an Alcohol Intervention Programme containing four major projects:
 - Smart Response
 - Healthy Shotz
 - Workplace Training
 - Free Health Checks
17. It was reported that the Lancashire Children's Trust Board had also commissioned some early intervention work; money had been allocated across the 12 district councils for the funding of an Early Intervention Development Officer and a range of early intervention programmes that would link into and extend existing provision.
18. Chorley Partnership is currently refreshing its Sustainable Community Strategy and its Thematic Groups would be better aligned to improve on communication and enable deadlines for funding to be lined up more effectively.
19. It was reported that the Alcohol Designation Order that had been implemented to cover the Town Centre and Astley Park had been successful. It had been implemented just before the World Cup and initial feedback suggested that the Order had helped over the busy period.

TASK AND FINISH GROUP UPDATE

13. The Committee have appointed Members to Task and Finish Groups undertaking inquiries into the following issues:
 - Allotments
 - Asset Management

Allotments

14. The Task Group met in June and August and agreed that the key themes for the review should be an effective management procedure for the provision and maintenance of Allotments to include contractual and enforcement policy, allocation criteria and the promotion of alternative ways of growing and improved communications. The scoping of the review was agreed at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 31 August.

Asset Management

15. The Task Group met in June, July and August and agreed that the review should look at, the current function, suitability, available space and operational costs of the main administrative Council buildings and sites, the future working arrangements and alternative methods of service delivery and the implications this might have on the Council's accommodation requirements and to look at a

range of other Council assets to consider how they could be brought into use, sold, leased or otherwise used to benefit the Council.

16. The scoping of the review was agreed in July and was approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 9 August 2010.

RECOMMENDATION

17. The Council is recommended to note this report.

COUNCILLOR A LOWE

Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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There are no background papers to this report.