

## Overview and Scrutiny – Report to Council

1. This report summarises the business considered at the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel held 31 July 2024; and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 1 August 2024.
2. Please note that the report may not reflect the wording used in the minutes, as they have yet to be formally agreed. The You Tube stream and documents relating to the meeting can be found here: [Chorley Council - YouTube](#)

## Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel – 31 July 2024

### Quarter 4 Performance Monitoring Report 2023-24

3. Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources presented a monitoring report setting out the performance against the delivery of the Corporate Strategy during the fourth quarter of 2023/24, covering 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024.
4. He also referred to a correction note to the report, which provided performance information regarding major planning applications decided within the agreed timeframe. The updated information indicated that the original report had included performance within quarter rather than year to date. The year to date provided performance information within the context of the financial year (April – March) and showed that both indicators were performing above target.
5. He highlighted the following indicators which were under performing:
  - Delivery of the Local Plan – making progress
  - No. Bus Shelters – the report shows the position as at quarter 4. The updated position was that the performance was now above target (54 shelters have now been installed against a target of 45).
  - 16 – 17 year old NEETs – the Council is working closely with partners to address this e.g. via youth zones.
  - Transformation Programme – overall employment rate – under ongoing investigation – lack of correlation between employment rate and benefit claimants. It would be useful going forward e.g. when we look at the Corporate Strategy, to look at unemployment rate and where the gaps are (e.g. number of people who are retired).
  - Major applications – there were 3 major planning applications, of which one had not met the target in that quarter (see reference to correction note above).
  - Residents survey – satisfaction down from the previous year.
6. There was some discussion about how the information within the report was presented to best assist members with their scrutiny role.
7. The performance information provided for the residents' survey was presented in percentages. It was suggested that it would be useful to have the actual total

figures to provide context, as well as the methodology i.e. sampling frame and questionnaire, in the appendix to the report. Councillor Wilson agreed with suggestion about the presentation of data in performance reports generally, where it assists to provide context.

8. Feedback was also on the findings of the residents' survey in terms of how we are going to address the results and make improvements.
9. The Vice-Chair suggested the residents survey be split up into demographics of respondents (e.g. men and women, areas of the borough) which may provide context and inform how the council proposes to address priorities put forward by residents.
10. More detail was requested as regards the weighting referenced at paragraph 62 of the report.
11. Street cleaning was highlighted as a key priority to residents. Cllr Wilson stressed we are performing above target - but can always continually improve to meet resident expectations.
12. The Chair then related the following information provided by Asim Khan, Director of Customer and Digital regarding the bus shelters installation programme:
  - We installed 15 of the 19 bus shelters by end of Q4 for 2023/24 resulting in the Amber rating.
  - However, to date a total of 54 shelters have now been installed against a target of 45 as indicated below.

Year	Target	Actual	Difference	RAG
2023/ 24	19	15	-4	Amber
2024/25	26	39	+13	Green
<b>1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>+ 9</b>	<b>Green</b>

- We are now well ahead of the agreed programme.
- In respect of **Living Roofs**, we have installed 4 out of 5 shelters and the final one is being installed in August 2024. The delay has been down to supply chain issues.

13. The Chair thanked Councillor Wilson for his attendance.

14. The Panel noted the report and agreed that the additional information requested in respect of the residents' survey be provided to the Panel and for future performance reports

Councillor Debra Platt

Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel 31 July 2024

### **Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 1 August 2024**

#### **Scrutiny Reporting Back – Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24**

15. The Committee considered and noted the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24.
16. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had overseen a busy year undertaking a varied and extensive work programme.
17. There were also several new members welcomed to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
18. The Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel monitored the business planning and performance of the council along with a focus on each of the Directorates in turn.
19. Over the year, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee observed the completion of the Recruitment and Staff Retention Overview and Scrutiny Task Group.
20. The Committee continued to receive monitoring reports which included information about implementation of previous scrutiny review on Select move.
21. The Committee also received a report in relation to the Community Safety Partnership / Crime and Disorder.

#### **Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme**

22. Consideration of the draft work programme 2024/25 was deferred until after a further training and workshop session had been arranged. Several members had been unable to attend the initial session on 18 June 2024.
23. A further session was subsequently held on Tuesday, 3 September 2024 at 6.00pm. The event was very well attended, with varied and constructive ideas put forward. These will be collated and presented to Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 October 2024 as part of consideration of the annual work programme.

#### **Health Scrutiny Update**

24. Councillor Margaret France, Cabinet Member (Health, Wellbeing and Partnerships) gave a verbal update on the Lancashire County Council Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee which had met on 20 March 2024 and 8 May 2024 and meetings of the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board.

25. She highlighted the following key discussions from :

**20 March 2024:**

- Presentation / report on the social care sector workforce – number of sickness absences, vacancies (particularly occupational therapists, residential care assistants) a concern;
- introduction of NHS one workforce concept – “work passports” to allow staff to move between sites

**8 May 2024**

- Presentation on Living Better Lives in Lancashire
- More integrated working to enable timely discharge from hospital and allow people to be supported to remain in their own homes

**26 June 2024** (Councillor Michelle Beach attended on behalf of Councillor Margaret France)

- Work plan 2024/25
- Papers and minutes to be added to the LCC website.

The [agenda papers and minutes](#) can be viewed on the Lancashire County Council website.

26. Members indicated it would also be useful to have a written version of the update for future meetings.

**Reports from Task and Finish Groups**

27. The Suicide Bereavement and Prevention Task Group held its first meeting on 22 May 2024, at which members carried out a scoping exercise for this piece of work and received a presentation on the work of the council in terms social prescribing, referral / signposting, its work with partners, including Lancashire MIND and St Laurence’s Church, and on forthcoming events such as the World Suicide Prevention Event in September.

28. It then met on 19 June, and received background data and evidence to consider as follows:

- Real time surveillance suspected suicide data – Public Health LCC
- Office for Health Improvement and Disparity Suicide and self-harm data

29. It also considered additional information containing sensitive data and hence was held in private session.

30. The next meeting was on 23 July. Prior to the formal meeting, the Task Group met with members of a Suicide Bereavement Support group, Beside you in Bereavement (BYIB). Guests related their personal experiences with suicide bereavement and shared what they thought could be improved such as having contact from someone who could offer support within 24 hours.

31. At the formal meeting, the Task group heard from Lancashire MIND, and what it can offer in terms of the orange button pledge, and provision of self harm safe kits, and free e-learning.

32. Members also heard from LCC Public Health, and discussed more localised data in private session.

33. Another meeting was held on 20 August, attended by Angela Allen from Bags for Strife and Andy's man Club.

34. The Task Group would also like to speak to local police on a date to be arranged.

35. This scrutiny review has been progressing very well and aims to be completed by October.

Councillor Debra Platt

Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 August 2024