

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Transformation	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	28 March 2011

ANNUAL REVIEW OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2010/11 AND POTENTIAL REVIEW TOPICS FOR 2011/12

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To report on the annual review of the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in 2010/11 and to outline potential review topics for 2011/12.
2. More detail on the work of the Committee in 2010/11 and the specific outcomes from the Task Groups will be contained within the Annual Report – Scrutiny Reporting back which will be reported to the first meeting of the 2011/12 municipal year.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

3. That the report be noted and Members views on scrutiny review topics for 2011/12 be received.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

4. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Strong Family Support		Education and Jobs	
Being Healthy		Pride in Quality Homes and Clean Neighbourhoods	
Safe Respectful Communities		Quality Community Services and Spaces	
Vibrant Local Economy		Thriving Town Centre, Local Attractions and Villages	
A Council that is a consistently Top Performing Organisation and Delivers Excellent Value for Money			√

BACKGROUND

5. For the past few years the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has reviewed the previous scrutiny year to
 - Reflect on the work of the Committee in 2010/11 to include the reviews undertaken, the performance role, actions taken to hold the Executive to account and more recently to consider the scrutiny of the Community Safety Partnership.
 - Consider review topics for 2010/11; and
 - Shape the 2010/11 Scrutiny Annual Report

A CHANGE OF FOCUS

6. In the past the Committee has been very focused on the Council's performance. Following a review earlier in the year it was agreed that although some monitoring reports would still continue to be produced quarterly for the Executive Cabinet agenda, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would only receive them every six months allowing the Committee to focus on the Scrutiny of Executive decisions.

CHALLENGING THE EXECUTIVE

7. The following Executive Cabinet decisions have been scrutinised at Committee and recommendations made in 2010/11.
 - Chorley and South Ribble Merged Partnership
 - Overview of PACT meetings; the MATAC and mini MATAC process, including Member communication
 - Alleygate Scheme
 - Chorley Council Performance Monitoring Reports
 - Core Funding 2011/12 – Review of process

The Executive Members for Places and Transformation have both attended Overview and Scrutiny Committee's to answer Members questions.

SCRUTINY REVIEWS IN 2010/11

ALLOTMENTS

8. At the request of two members of the public, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertook a review of Allotments in Chorley, chaired by Councillor Julia Berry

The purpose of the review was to increase the provision of allotments, improve management controls to enforce higher standards on allotment plots, ensure that charges are fair and reflective of other authorities and encourage community growing and self management of allotment sites.

The 25 recommendations made had the capacity to increase revenue and minimise running costs with no major budget implications to the Council, some were organisational and established best practice under the following headings:

- Provision and demand for allotments
- Tenancy Agreements and monitoring and inspection procedures
- Allotment charges
- Community Growing
- Community Management of Allotments

The Executive Cabinet accepted the majority of the recommendations, as they felt they would make improvements to the Allotments service, they were cost neutral and some actions would in fact, recover expenditure that the Council currently incurred.

ASSET MANAGEMENT

9. Chaired by Councillor Alan Cullens, the aim of this review was the streamlining of the Council's assets to reduce expenditure and maximise income for the Authority, therefore influencing both the Council's priorities and budget for 2010/11 and beyond.

Having looked at the Council's wider asset portfolio, it was agreed to focus on the following sites and premises:

- Bengal Street Depot and offices
- Gillibrand Street offices
- Union Street offices
- Town Hall including Lancastrian Room and White Hart premises
- Yarrow Bridge site (formerly depot) , to consider their current function suitability, available space, operation costs and redevelopment potential;

The Task Group did not produce detailed recommendations but a set of principles from which the Executive could develop a strategy and undertake feasibility studies to establish detailed proposals. These were submitted to Executive Cabinet in February 2011.

LANCASTRIAN

10. A direct outcome of the Asset Management Scrutiny Review had been options for the future development of the Lancastrian. These have been rejected because of the high costs of redevelopment. It was agreed that a further review will take place to consider how to make best use of the Lancastrian Suite and the Task Group will once again be chaired by Councillor Alan Cullens.

Elsewhere on this agenda is a scoping document for the review which looks at

- The current function, suitability, space and operational costs of the Lancastrian Suite.
- Current and future working arrangements and alternative methods of service delivery.
- Assessing the need for the type of facilities offered by the Lancastrian Suite – both commercially and for community facilities.
- Looking at other options for the future management of the Lancastrian Suite.
- Considering whether there needs to be investment in the facility in order for it to be used most effectively.

CHALLENGING PERFORMANCE

11. Scrutiny continues to challenge directorate and service performance, through the reporting of monitoring information on a six monthly basis. Members receive:
 - Business plan monitoring and performance information for each of the three directorates:
 - Partnerships, Planning and Policy
 - People and Places
 - Transformation
 - Project updates under the Corporate Strategy; and
 - Monitoring information from Chorley Partnership, including projects being run by the Partnership.

Previous concerns relating to performance under NI 195, environmental cleanliness and the collection of debts older than 90 days had now been satisfied following the implementation of more robust improvement plans around grounds maintenance and the collection of Section 106 monies.

FINANCIAL SCRUTINY

12. The Executive Member for Transformation attended the Committee to answer Members questions about the Executives budget principles for 2011/12.

CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY

13. Under our Statutory Duty to scrutinise local crime and disorder matters, the Committee had requested the delivery of two Member Learning Sessions to increase Members awareness of crime and disorder matters. These sessions held jointly with South Ribble Councillors, were on the following topics:
- Understanding the Safer Chorley and South Ribble Partnership
 - Drug and Alcohol Abuse

Following the session on the Joint Community Safety Partnership, the Committee asked for further information on the Police and Community Together, the MATAAC's and mini MATAAC process and Member communication. Chief Inspector Richard Robertshaw from the Partnership attended the Committee to present an overview of the particular areas of concern and a number of recommendations were made to improve on Members engagement in the process.

Further to this the Committee have elected to scrutinise one particular aspect of the work of the Community Safety Partnership. Anti social behaviour has been identified as a suitable area, as it impacts everybody with strong links to the Neighbourhood Working agenda.

FUTURE REVIEW TOPICS 2011/12

14. This year the Committee decided not to hold a separate meeting to discuss what topics should be reviewed in 2011/12. This issue is to be discussed at the meeting. The review currently taking place on the Lancastrian will continue into the new year as will the joint Scrutiny of NHS reform with South Ribble. Members had previously requested a review around Tourism in Chorley and all Members of the Council have been invited to put forward any suggestions for the Committee to consider ahead of this meeting.
- 15.

GARY HALL
DIRECTOR OF TRANSFORMATION

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Dianne Scambler	5034	13 March 2011	***