

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 held on 11 July 2011.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 11 JULY 2011

Executive Cabinet – 31 March 2011 and 23 June 2011

2. Members considered the minutes of the last two Executive Cabinet meetings and discussions took place in relation to the following items:

Council's Community Engagement Strategy

- Information on how the Council's new Citizen's Jury would operate

Business Plan Monitoring Statements

3. The Committee received Directorate Business Plan Monitoring Statements covering the second half of 2010/11. Each of the reports also included an update on the directorate business improvement plans for 2011/12, linked to the Corporate Strategy.
4. In each case, reports highlighted key achievements and actions in directorates, including those projects which were not on schedule, along with performance and revenue budget information.

Partnership, Planning and Partnerships

5. Key achievements for the directorate included:
 - The LDF Core Strategy had been agreed by the three Central Lancashire Councils and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by the deadline of 31 March 2011.
 - In continuing to push forward the affordable housing action plan, 173 affordable houses had been delivered, exceeding the target of 50.
6. All except one of the key actions in the Business Improvement Plan had been delivered on schedule and an explanation was given as to why the action to deliver Landlord Accreditation with South Ribble Borough Council was currently off track.

People and Places

7. There was a number of notable achievements for the directorate that included:
 - A significant senior management restructure within the directorate that had resulted in £150,000 worth of savings and had reduced the number of service heads to two. The new structure embedded neighbourhood working within the operation of the directorate and consolidated contract management.

- The Coach House Cafe at Astley Park had received a Civic Society Award.
 - The Council-managed Community Centres usage figures had increased by more than 1,000 hours of usage compared to the same time last year.
 - Yarrow Park had received Country Park Accreditation.
8. The majority of key actions in the Business Improvement Plan had been delivered on schedule and a table containing those actions that were currently behind schedule was included that gave reasons for the delay and what mitigating action was being taken.
9. It was noted that the One Stop Health Shop was achieving well. The service was capturing certain groups of people who would not normally attend the doctors, and the facility provides access to basic health checks and acts as a referral mechanism for other health services. Due to its success the service had been extended to March 2012.

Transformation Directorate

10. There had been a number of notable achievements delivered that included:
- The Council's updated Customer Relationship Management (CRM) System had been developed and the delivery of public sector advice had been extended in Union Street with both the County Council and the HMRC now offering services from that location.
 - We have retained our Government Connect accreditation which means the Council's data is as secure as it can be when transacting electronically.
 - The Financial Shared Services had implemented a single Financial Information System across the two participating Council's of Chorley and South Ribble.
11. The report also highlighted those actions that were currently behind schedule, giving delays for the delays and what action had been taken to get back on track.
12. The delivery of financial training for members this year was a key action. Whilst targeted activity on treasury management did take place on time for the Audit Committee, the general training was delayed. The training had taken place but the session was poorly attended by Members and arrangements were being discussed to provide further sessions.

Chorley Partnership Annual Report 2010/11

13. We received a report of the Chief Executive on the activities and performance of the Chorley Partnership in 2010/11. The report commented particularly on the progress and impact of the Local Strategic Partnership sponsored projects and how they contribute to the achievement of the refreshed Sustainable Community Strategy.
14. The following significant statistics and trends revealed in the report:
- Crime is down overall by 1.7% compared to 2009/10.

- The rate of alcohol admissions has reduced and is lower than the North West average.
 - 67 new business start-ups are recorded against a target figure of 53.
15. The 'Healthy Shotz' project was highlighted as having been particularly successful and had exceeded the initial target set of 600 young people accessing the project. Sessions had included alcohol awareness, alcohol safety and a harm reduction messages competition.

Fourth Quarter Performance Report 2010/2011

16. We considered a report of the Chief Executive setting out the Authority's performance in respect of the key projects included in the Corporate Strategy and key performance indicators during the fourth quarter of 2010/11.
17. The report revealed excellent performance with the vast majority of projects either on track, completed or scheduled to start later in the year. Of the two projects currently rated amber, one would now be completed in the original timescales, with the other set to be completed by the end of the second quarter.
18. Performance on the key performance indicators is strong, with 95% of the measures performing above target or within the 5% tolerance and it was explained what measures had been put into place to improve on the performance of the three key service delivery measures that are currently below target.

Scrutiny Work Programme for 2011/12

19. We received a report of the Director of Transformation to agree a work programme for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2011/12.
20. It was noted that two task groups were only partway through their work and would continue to meet into this year. The Lancastrian Room Scrutiny Task Group would now be chaired by Councillor Debra Platt and the new membership was confirmed. The joint NHS Reform Task Group with South Ribble Council had only recently started its work and due to changes following all out elections in South Ribble, the task group was to continue but with significant changes in the membership. Membership from Chorley would remain the same.
21. Following potential scrutiny review topics that had been received from Members at the end of 2010/11, the Committee agreed to a review on Tourism, incorporating Astley Hall and Park, to be chaired by Councillor Peter Wilson.
22. To allow Members to consider what aspects of crime and disorder we should scrutinise, a report was requested on potential topics for the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Executive's Response to Overview and Scrutiny Review of Accommodation Assets

23. The Committee were pleased to note that the Executive Cabinet had accepted the set of principles that had been set out in the scrutiny review of asset management, in respect of the Council's office accommodation and we were provided with details that demonstrated the progress made to date, on each of the recommendations for each of the sites identified.

2010/11 Year End Progress Report on the Performance of Key Partnerships

24. We received and considered a confidential report on the performance of the Council's key partnership arrangements. The report is produced in accordance with the requirements of the Council's Framework for Partnership Working and any performance or risk issues identified were drawn to our attention.

RECOMMENDATION

25. 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.