

## **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 5 September 2011 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**

#### **Executive Cabinet – 18 August 2011**

2. Members considered the minutes of the last Executive Cabinet meeting and a discussion took place in relation to the following item:

##### First Quarter Chorley Partnership Performance Report 2011/12

- Information on the cost of the Early Intervention Project

#### **Section 106 Monies Update Report**

3. The Committee received a report of the Chief Executive updating them on the progress made in implementing the projects included in the revenue budget and capital programme that were funded by Section 106 contributions.
4. The report presented details of expenditure with S106 contributions during 2010/11, and indicated budget provision for 2011/12 and subsequent years. Any uncommitted balances and contributions due to be received as developments proceeded were identified and the purposes for which contributions could be were applied were explained.
5. Members commented that it was important to ensure that there was the right balance of affordable housing across the Borough, ensuring that there was a mix of rental and purchased property where most needed.
6. A list of all affordable Housing development as a result of S106 contributions that included those funded and those built by developers, was requested by the Committee.
7. Councillors representing the Chorley South East Ward of the Borough asked to be consulted on with regards to the uncommitted balance from the S106 contributions received from the former LEX Autologistics Site, Pilling Lane, Chorley and a request was made if the Council could ask for the first payment from the Buckshaw Group 1 development that related to Public Transport and Community Facilities contribution to be paid in advance to allow the necessary infrastructure to be put in place before the 240 dwellings were built.

## **Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Options Paper**

8. The Committee considered a report giving options for areas of community safety that could be scrutinised this year under the Committee's requirement to the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009.
9. It was highlighted that domestic abuse (including domestic violence) was a key priority for the Safer Chorley and South Ribble Partnership. Whilst Chorley had some problems linked to the Town Centre and the night time economy, the more evident issue is violence within the home and committed by known offenders.
10. Over the past 4 years the funding for the Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy services had been supported by various grants that were no longer sustainable. To date the partnership had not been able to identify sustainable funding to support the IDVA service and is currently still reliant on one off grant contributions from the Home Office, Safer Lancashire Board and other funding opportunities.
11. The Committee, recognising the importance of the service and the concerns about future funding, opted to scrutinise the Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy service and Members were keen to seek the opinions of partners who contributed to the funding of the service, particularly in relation to seeking future provision through mainstream funding.

## **Executive's response to recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Task Groups' Inquiry into Highways Issues.**

12. The Committee considered the response of the Executive Cabinet to the findings and recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny report on Highways Issues.
13. Officers and Members were frustrated at the lack of process being made on the recommendations made to Lancashire County Council. Efforts continued to be made to address these issues and concerns and the Committee asked to be kept updated on progress made through the Highways Scrutiny Monitoring Reports.

## **Reports from the Task and Finish Groups**

### **Overview and Scrutiny Task Group – Lancastrian**

14. The Group have met on four occasions and have undertaken the following:
  - Looked at income over the last three years and also current pricing structures.
  - Carried out soft market testing of the Lancastrian Suite with external event management companies in Chorley.
  - Undertook a survey of regular existing users to ascertain what the positive points of hiring the Lancastrian are, and where the problems might be.
  - Obtained rough costings for additional work that could be undertaken, e.g. a full working kitchen; changing facilities; improved bar facilities.

The next stage was to invite South Ribble Borough Council to Chorley to utilise their experience in running a hospitality suite.

### **Overview and Scrutiny Task Group – Tourism and Promoting Chorley**

15. The Chair of the Group reported that the first meeting of the Group was due to be held and that the membership was as follows:

Councillor Peter Wilson (Chair)

Councillor Steve Holgate

Councillor Paul Leadbetter

Councillor Marion Lowe

Councillor June Molyneaux

Councillor Mark Perks

Councillor Geoff Russell

### **Overview and Scrutiny Task Group – Joint NHS Reform**

16. Following the Elections in May of this year, the membership of the Task Group had changed significantly and the Group had yet to have its first meeting.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

17. The Council is recommended to note this report.

COUNCILLOR ADRIAN LOWE

Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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There are no background papers to this report.