

## **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 16 April 2012 and the work of the Task and Finish Groups

### **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

#### **Annual Scrutiny Reporting Back 2011/12 Report**

2. Members considered the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report that detailed the work of the Committee in 2011/12, including the specific outcomes from the Task Groups and the Committee's role in finance scrutiny, other performance and holding the Executive to account. The report was noted and agreed to be submitted to full Council in July.

#### **Final Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group – Tourism and Promoting Chorley**

3. The Committee received the Final Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group – Tourism and Promoting Chorley. The main objective of the review was to further develop Chorley as a tourist destination by promoting the Borough's key assets and events and identifying other opportunities for making the Borough more attractive to outside visitors.
4. The 21 recommendations made, had the capacity to increase visitors to Chorley and improve partnership working within the industry and were around the following headings; Town Centre/Markets, Astley Hall, Promotional and Partnership Working.
5. By improving the content and providing better links, it was anticipated that the current redevelopment of the Council's website would help to improve our relationships with external providers and organisations that held a key stake in tourism within the Borough. It would also help to build on and create new partnerships to better work together to promote Chorley.
6. The Committee approved the report and agreed to its submission to the next meeting of the Executive Cabinet for consideration.

#### **Final Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group – Private Rented Housing Inspection**

7. The Committee received the Final Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group – Private Rented Housing Inspection. The Group's aim had been to identify and tackle poor housing standards in some private rented properties in the Borough, to improve housing conditions for those tenants.
8. The Group recommended that the Executive Cabinet consider the introduction of a partially proactive scheme of inspection which would use current intelligence and

data sources. The scheme would be reactive to tenant complaints and would provide a base service from which a full inspection programme could be developed.

9. In putting forward the recommendation for an increased resource to inspect private sector rented properties, the Task Group felt there would be a strong message going to those landlords who didn't address housing problems and that ultimately this should lead to improvements in the condition of private rented housing in the borough. The proposal put forward provided an enhanced service with reasonable financial implications. The Committee approved the report and agreed for its submission to the next meeting of the Executive Cabinet for consideration.

### **Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy Service Funding Update**

10. The Committee received a report updating them of the funding arrangements being sought for the Independent Domestic Violence (IDVA) service in 2012/13 and beyond.
11. Following the review of the service that had been undertaken by the Committee the Council's Executive Cabinet had accepted the recommendations of the Committee that focussed on the provision of budgetary support for IDVA and sought to ensure that partners made appropriate contributions in order for the service to continue.
12. A recent study commissioned by Lancashire County Council had identified that, the level of IDVA service needed to increase to meet demand across the Chorley and South Ribble footprint in 2012/13 with a cost in the region of £89,000, which was twice the current level of funding provided by partners.
13. It was proposed that for 2012/13 the level of IDVA service be increased to meet the demand and that 50% of the funding would come from the Safer Lancashire Board with the remaining funding to be provided by the partner agencies on a scale that identified the percentile benefit they received through the operation of the service. As a result Chorley Council's contribution for 2012/13 would amount to only £1700.
15. In 2013/14, the funding from the Safer Lancashire Board would cease and the service would have to source the full cost of the service from its constituent partner agencies, that would mean a commitment to the doubling of their contribution. This would mean that Chorley Council's contribution for 2013/14 would be £3,400.
16. The Chair of the Chorley and South Ribble Community Safety Partnership had written to all the Responsible Authorities Group agencies outlining the funding models and seeking their support in making the appropriate budgetary provision as apportioned to them. It was anticipated that the final funding arrangements would be agreed by June 2012 and Members would be updated accordingly.
17. Members were further informed that using the extra resources that Chorley Council had originally allocated within the budget, additional work was underway to identify how agencies might better tackle issues at an early stage to prevent domestic violence situations escalating to the point where the IDVA service was needed.

18. It was noted that the scrutiny of the service that had taken place towards the end of last year had helped to trigger activity across Lancashire and may ultimately lead to a more comprehensive IDVA service for Chorley and South Ribble residents.

### **Key Partnerships Mid Year Report**

19. The Committee considered a confidential report of the Chief Executive on the performance of the Council's key partnership arrangements. The report had been produced in accordance with the requirements of the Council's Framework for Partnership Working and any performance or risk issues identified were drawn to the attention of the Committee.

### **Recommendation**

20. The Council are recommended to note this report

COUNCILLOR STEVE HOLGATE  
Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

There are no background papers to this report.  
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