

REPORT OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. This report summarises the business transacted at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11 July, including the work to date on the Task Groups relating to the Select Move Review and Play and Open Spaces Strategy. It also summarises the business that was considered at the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel on 25 July 2013.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 11 JULY 2013

Executive Cabinet Minutes – 20 June 2013

2. It was explained that the Chorley Inward Investment Plan that had been promised would be made available to Members would be published in the next edition of *intheknow*, that Friday.

Annual Scrutiny Reporting Back Report 2012/13

3. Members considered the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report that detailed the work of the Committee in 2012/13, including the specific outcomes from the Task Groups and the Committee's role in finance scrutiny, other performance and holding the Executive to account.
4. It was reported that a formal response to the recommendations contained within the Adoption of Estates Review that related to Lancashire County Council was expected shortly.
5. Members were provided with a further update on the IDVA funding. The Clinical Commissioning Groups had no plans to contribute to a centralised IDVA service for 2013/14, as they had already allocated their funds to existing priorities. This meant that the IDVA service would continue to be provided on a local basis. Members were very disappointed with this outcome and asked if more could be done to secure this funding in the future.

Council Services – How we impact on the health of our citizens

6. We received a presentation on how the Council impacts on the health of its citizens. The Council delivers a number of health related services, such as, Environmental Health and Housing, Planning and Development Control, Sports and Leisure, Economic Development and Welfare Benefits.
7. Effective partnership working is key to the successful delivery of many of these services and the authority is actively involved in the Chorley and South Ribble Health and Wellbeing Partnership. Many health initiatives have been incorporated into the neighbourhood priorities and the Council continues to work closely with the Voluntary and Community Faith Sector (VCFS) network.
8. Scrutiny's role was in measuring health impact, Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNA) would analyse the health needs of populations to inform and guide commissioning of health and wellbeing services within local authority areas.

However, these assessments would identify long term health trends that would be difficult to measure at present. The new arrangements would need time to become established with many of the health benefits only becoming measurable over a longer period of time. In the meantime it was important to identify short term indicators that would include assessing value for money at a local level and the tracking of partner and council service delivery to measure their success.

9. There was a new remit of the County Council to scrutinise health and wellbeing. All the districts were represented on the Health and Wellbeing Board and Healthwatch had recently been launched to scrutinise accountability and public involvement.
10. We felt that there needed to be a more coordinated approach to the gathering of all the statistical information that was available for each of the neighbourhood areas. The neighbourhood plans should include every aspect relating to the health and wellbeing of its residents in that area. It was also felt that there needed to be better collaboration and communication with the County Council and that all Members would benefit from an information session to update them on the latest situation with regards to the health and wellbeing agenda.
11. We agreed to undertake a piece of work to look at the emerging Play and Open Spaces Strategy (e.g. what we're going to do over the next 5 years in the light of the analysis undertaken by KKP for the LDF process) and to see, using our Impact Assessment methodologies, whether the health and wellbeing opportunities are being maximised. The dedicated meeting would be chaired by Councillor Julia Berry with support from the Vice Chair, Councillor Mark Perks.

Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel 2013/14

12. The Membership of the Overview and Performance Panel for 2013/14 be confirmed as follows:
 - Councillor Steve Holgate (Chair)
 - Councillor Mark Perks (Vice Chair)
 - Councillor Julia Berry
 - Councillor Keith Iddon
 - Councillor Marion Lowe
 - Councillor Kim Snape

Overview and Scrutiny Review for Allotments – Monitoring Report

13. We received a report that provided us with an update on the implementation of outstanding actions agreed following the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group review of allotments. It had previously been reported that all agreed recommendations had been actioned and this report provided additional works that had since been implemented.
14. Additional plots had been made available at Manor Road, with more planned as part of the Rangletts Recreation Ground development due for completion in March 2014.

This would represent a 36% increase from the 146 plots that were available in 2010 and see a reduction on the waiting list from 405 to 363.

15. The Parks and Open Spaces team continued to seek and identify further potential sites and the Committee were pleased that the team continued to identify additional sites across the borough, this included working with the Parish Councils to develop non-Council owned sites.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE PANEL – 25 JULY 2013

Chorley Council Performance Monitoring Quarter Four 2012/13

14. The Panel considered a report of the Chief Executive monitoring the Council's performance against the delivery of the Corporate Strategy and key performance indicators during the fourth quarter of 2012/13. We were informed that the majority of key projects were on track for delivery with the trial reopening of Market St being delayed due to changes to the scheme. Completion on this was due in October.
15. Corporate Strategy measures which were performing below target and therefore subject to action plans were:
 - % of customers dissatisfied with the way they were treated by the Council
 - town centre visits
 - % of 16 – 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEETs)
 - growth in the business rate base
 - the number of long term empty properties in the borough.

The key service delivery measure performing below target was the processing of minor planning applications. In all cases action plans were in place to address improving performance.

16. Members queried the number of empty properties and the strategy to address the issue. Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member reported that recent council tax regulation changes could impact on the number of empty properties in the longer term but it was too early to tell. Some empty properties which were considered a blight on an area, had been selected for the Council to engage with owners to bring property back into use.
17. There was a further query on progress with the Friday Street Health Centre project and the Chief Executive reported that discussions were ongoing with the Care Trust about the financing of the scheme with the next stage being to draw up plans. The suitability of the site remained an issue but a suitable alternative was proving difficult to find.
18. In response to a query regarding updates on key projects which were on track for delivery, the Chief Executive reported that project and performance information would shortly be available to Members through the intranet. If Members had detailed

questions as a result, then these should be brought to the meeting – but with advance notice so that the correct information could be sourced.

Chorley Partnership Performance Monitoring Quarter Four 2012/13

19. Members considered a report of the Chief Executive on the performance of the Chorley Partnership during the fourth quarter of 2012/13 against the delivery plan and key performance indicators. Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member reported that the performance indicators for the Partnership were being reviewed. For quarter 1 in 2013/14, there would be a new approach to delivery planning which would provide greater clarity on the links and performance of sub groups as well as partner organisations.
20. Overall, performance of the partnership was very good with 41 of the 52 key projects/priorities being complete or on target for completion. Of the remaining 11, 5 were the responsibility of the NHS Central Lancashire which had been abolished on 1 April with responsibilities transferring to the Chorley and South Ribble Clinical Commissioning Group, Lancashire County Council and Lancashire Care Trust. Information was being sourced on these projects.
21. We expressed concern that despite a reduction in the rate of alcohol related hospital admissions in Chorley, the figure was still extremely high and more should be done to tackle the issues. An example of one town centre pub offered 10 drinks for £10 was referred to. Councillor Peter Wilson confirmed that more work was necessary in this area and he welcomed the support of the Panel in making that request to the LSP.
22. The Director of People and Places reported that the LSP had tasked the Children's Trust with interventions to look at young people admitted to hospital with alcohol related admissions. In relation to a query about availability of information on the Children's Trust website, the Director offered to ensure it was up to date. I was requested to write to the Chair of Chorley Partnership to request that more detailed work is undertaken into tackling the high rate of alcohol related hospital admissions in the Borough.

Performance Focus – Shared Services

23. Shared services was the topic of the performance focus for this meeting and we invited Gary Hall and Councillor Peter Wilson to present their report which provide the financial and organisational benefits to the establishment of shared financial and assurance services with South Ribble Council.
24. In terms of performance in the last quarter of 2012/13, there had been an improvement on the previous year with 80% of financial service indicators and 46% of assurance indicators being green. Since its establishment, the shared financial and assurance services had been predicted to save £290,000 but had in fact saved £550,000. Both Councils had benefitted equally from the savings made.

25. In some areas, services had been improved will full integration and greater efficiency/delivery. However this hadn't been achieved in all areas and management accounting would be the focus over the next 12 months. Shared services was not the solution for all services and areas like IT and revenues and benefits had been investigated but discounted on the basis that the Council could make more savings by delivering the services alone, however this did not discount looking at these options in the future. Experience had shown that standardisation across authorities was a good basis for shared services.
26. In answer to questions about delivering services for other organisations, a number of models were available but there were mixed benefits, one issue being the loss of officer time within a smaller council. We noted the report and asked that a Member Learning Hour be delivered on the risks and benefits of future shared services.

Overview and Scrutiny Task Group – Select Move

27. At its first meeting, the Group received a presentation that provided background information on Select Move so that Members could effectively scope the review. Select Move is a Choice Based Letting Partnership that replaces traditional waiting lists. Applicants express their interest with 'bids' on a weekly cycle rather than waiting to be allocated a property.
28. The Group have AGREED that the desired outcome would be a choice based lettings service that met the needs of Chorley residents by achieving the following objectives:
 - To investigate and evidence whether Select Move is meeting the needs and satisfaction of customers and they are happy with the outcomes.
 - To gather and understand in more detail information relating to current waiting times including the impact on particular bands/groups of customers and what actions, if any, can be taken to reduce waiting times.
 - To investigate and evidence all properties being let are in an acceptable standard on handover to the tenant and if not, what if anything can be done to address this.

Overview and Scrutiny Task Group - Play and Open Spaces Strategy

29. Members of the Committee met to discuss the emerging Play and Open Space Strategy, to examine whether the health and wellbeing benefits were being maximised.
30. Chaired by Councillor Julia Berry, the meeting received a presentation of the Head of Streetscene and Leisure Contracts that provided us with the progress made on the Strategy and its scope. We were also provided with a list of the sites to ensure that all the play areas, playing pitches and open spaces had been identified across the Borough.

31. At its next meeting the Group will work through a number of case studies from the list to discuss how the Integrated Impact Assessment will lend itself to maximising the benefits of the new strategy, particularly in relation to the health impact.

Recommendation

That the report be noted.

COUNCILLOR STEVE HOLGATE
Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee
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