

## **REPORT OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

1. This report summarises the business considered at the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees on 10 April and 19 June, including the work to date on the Task Groups relating to Select Move and CCTV Provision.

### **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 10 APRIL 2014**

#### **Monitoring Report of Inquiry Recommendations – Adoption of Estates Review**

2. The Committee received a joint report of the Directors of People and Places and Partnerships, Planning and Policy informing them of progress made against each of the recommendations of the Task Group review into the Adoption of Estates. All 14 recommendations had been essential agreed by the Executive Cabinet and those responses that had been accepted by Lancashire County Council were included in the report.
3. A number of recommendations required the undertaking of small projects to deliver the outcomes required. This included one project currently being led by ICT Services to develop a 'mapzone' which was essentially about the availability of information about adoptions being more readily available to the public.
4. The review had also influenced an organisational restructure at Chorley Council, in that a new role of 'Development Implementation Co-ordinator' had been established through a review of Transactional Services/Planning Business Support to manage matters pertaining to the Community Infrastructure Levy, Planning Obligations and Adoptions.
5. The Planning Services team had been applying the standard conditions as proposed by the national Department of Transport Work Group on adoptions and following attendance by Chris Bond at the a Scrutiny Panel meeting, officers from Chorley and Lancashire County Councils had been invited to attend a working group. This group would be advising the minister on adoption matters and the views of the Council, through the findings of the task group would be heard.
6. Members welcomed the progress made to date. However, there were still concerns about the amount of estates that currently remained un-adopted and whilst the Committee accepted that this may be improved upon with the introduction of the new dedicated post within the planning services team, the Committee still considered that in order to obtain effective improvements to the service there needed to be fundamental changes to planning conditions and the legal duty placed upon developers at national level.

#### **Monitoring Report of Inquiry Recommendations – Private Rented Sector Housing**

7. The Head of Health, Environment and Neighbourhoods updated the Committee on the work done to date against the recommendations of the Private Rented Sector Housing Inspection Task Group that had been carried out in 2013.
8. A dedicated staffing resource of Inspection had been undertaken. However, instead of restricting this activity to one post holder, training had been undertaken by several officers to allow for greater capacity within existing resources. This had been expanded upon following a restructure within the service. All six Environmental Health Officers now held a generic role and had the skills and

knowledge to undertake the inspection and enforcement processes to the Housing Health and Safety Regulation Scheme (HHSRS) standard.

9. Chorley has in the region of 4,000 private rented properties with an estimated 10% below standard. Since the implementation of the inspection regime, a total of 63 inspections had been carried out against a target of 80. Whilst below target, the Council were confident that the service would catch up and the targeted property be brought to standard. A private rented sector database was being developed alongside a robust inspection and enforcement process.
10. Although some members were disappointed that the Council had not decided to give further thought to the development of a Landlord Accreditation Scheme, they welcomed the changes that had been made within the service in response to the recommendations made.

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 19 JUNE 2014**

### **Scrutiny of Executive Decisions**

11. Members discussed the different ways in which the Committee could effectively scrutinise the Executive. There was a view that it would be better to consider future agenda items that were to be determined by the Cabinet instead of scrutinising the minutes of those decisions.
12. Better scrutiny of the notice of executive decisions would fulfil this requirement. Anything of interest could be identified and further information sought to be present to Committee before a decision is made. It was also drawn to the Committee's attention that any Member could seek further information or influence decision of all Cabinet reports at its Informal Executive Cabinet meetings which take place before the items are determined by the Executive, and that the call-in procedure can be implemented by any Member that felt a decision had been an incorrect one.
13. A request was made for a review to be undertaken on this issue. However, as the Committee were soon to undertake some scrutiny training, it was agreed to delay the decision. The trainings session would be developed to allow Members to explore different ways of fulfilling the requirement of effectively scrutinising the Executive.

### **Disabled Facilities Grant Funding Task Group**

14. Councillor Julia Berry confirmed that she was representing Chorley on the joint Disabled Facilities Grant Funding Task Group with Lancashire County Council. The Group were shortly to undertake their first meeting to scope the review and the Committee would be kept informed as it progressed.

### **Scrutiny Annual Reporting Back 2013/14**

15. The Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report was presented that detailed the work of the Committee in 2013/14, including the specific outcomes from the Task Groups, its role in crime and disorder scrutiny, other performance and holding the Executive to account. The report would be presented to the next meeting of full Council for information.

### **Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2014/15**

16. The Committee considered the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2014/15. Members had been asked to make suggestions for potential scrutiny topics to be reviewed this year and it

was agreed for a review to be undertaken to look at transport issues in Chorley. The task group would be chaired by Councillor Robert Finnamore with support from Councillor Julia Berry and a membership would be sought via intheknow.

#### **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY TASK GROUP – SELECT MOVE**

17. The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group, Councillor Graham Dunn presented the Committee with the Final Report of the Select Move Review. The review had examined in detail how the scheme operated, exploring the profile of the customers who used it. This had included looking at how customers used the system and what their expectations of it were. The Registered Providers who participated in the scheme and examining consistency of approach.
18. The findings had been mainly positive with the system proving quite popular with the people who used it. There were however some inconsistencies identified in the level of service provided across the Registered Providers and some of the recommendations were around working more effectively with the Select Move Partnership to make service improvements.
19. Greater communication and accessibility to digital services were also key findings and recommendations had been made to ensure that standards were raised. The Committee were pleased to note that the standards of relets had been addressed as Members had received many complaints on this issue. A request was also made to consider language barriers when issuing relet standards information.
20. The Chair thanked the Members of the Task Group and the report was submitted to Executive Cabinet for consideration.

#### **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY TASK GROUP – CCTV PROVISION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

21. The Chair of the Task Group, Councillor Finnamore presented the Final Report of the CCTV Review to the Committee. The Group considered that there was enough evidence to support the continuation of CCTV in the borough of Chorley and were recommending a number of options for the Executive to consider for the replacement of its current provision and infrastructure.
22. The Chair thanked the Members of the Group for all their hard work and it was agreed for the Final Report to be submitted to the next meeting of the Executive Cabinet for consideration.

#### **Recommendation**

23. To note the report

COUNCILLOR STEVE HOLGATE  
CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2013/14

COUNCILLOR MARK PERKS  
CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2014/15

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