

Executive Cabinet

1. Any Cabinet recommendations on the reports that require Council decisions appear as separate items on the agenda.

GENERAL REPORT OF MEETING HELD ON 30 JUNE 2016

Final Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group – Staff Sickness Absence Review

2. In the absence of the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny, and Chair of the Task Group, Councillor John Walker, the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Paul Leadbetter presented the final report of the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group's review on Staff Sickness Absence to Executive Cabinet.
3. The Task Group felt that the current increase in the levels of sickness absence for 2015/16 did not suggest any underlying cause for concern and that the Council's current Sickness Absence Policy and approach to short and long term staff sickness absence was fair and proportionate to manage staff sickness effectively. The report was accepted for consideration of the Task Group's recommendations which were mainly around training for managers to maintain a consistent approach to the implementation of the new policy across the authority, with a view to providing a response directly to the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Equality Scheme Refresh

4. The report of the Director of Policy and Governance was presented by the Deputy Leader and Executive Member (Resources) and was a revised and updated version of the Council's Equality Scheme for the Executive Cabinet's consideration.
5. The scheme represented the authority's most recent approach towards equality and diversity based on a comprehensive review of legislation, data and best practice. It outlined the Council's approach, the processes undertaken and the strategies and policies in place to ensure that the authority continued to undertake its duties as defined by the Equality Act 2010 over 2016/17 to enhance and improve performance.
6. A strong commitment to equality and diversity will not only help the authority to meet its legal requirements but will provide benefits to our local communities. As an organisation that is committed to understanding and shaping our services around customer needs, the Council needs to be able to recognise and adapt to the diverse nature of our local communities.

Chorley Council Performance Monitoring Report – Fourth Quarter 2015/16

7. The report of the Director of Policy and Governance was presented by the Deputy Leader and Executive Member (Resources). The monitoring report set out performance against the delivery of the Corporate Strategy, and key performance indicators during the fourth quarter of 2015/16, 1 January to 31 March 2016.

8. An update on the performance of 2014/15 Corporate Strategy projects and the outcomes achieved was provided. The majority of projects (89%) were now successfully completed and rated green with highly positive outcomes that have been developed and taken forward into 2016/17. Only one project, which would continue through to the 2016/17 Corporate Strategy was rated red; 'Progress the delivery of Friday Street Health Centre'. This rating reflected recent delays to progress, pending the outcomes of a review by the Clinical Commissioning Group which would influence future funding.
9. Performance of the Corporate Strategy indicators and key service delivery measures remained excellent with 84% of the Corporate Strategy indicators and 90% of the key service measures performing above target or within the 5% tolerance.
10. The Economic Masterplan for Botany Bay has progressed and there is an agreement in principle with the landowners. The next steps will be to consult with ward councillors and local residents before applying for planning permission.

Fixed Penalty Notices – Fly-Tipping Report

11. The report of the Director of Early Intervention was presented by the Executive Member (Public Protection). The report highlighted new regulations that allow local authorities to issue fixed penalty notices for those caught fly-tipping and it was agreed that Chorley Council would set its penalty fee to £400, with a reduction to £200, if it is paid with 10 days of the notice being issued. This was in line with the national default if no local penalty is set.
12. Members were advised that local authorities are responsible for investigating and clearing small scale fly-tipping on public land and that larger fly-tipping (classed as a lorry load or more) is the responsibility of the Environment Agency. There are typically 800 incidents of fly-tipping in the borough each year and the issuing of a fixed penalty notice is only one tool available to the Council, along with prosecution through the Courts.
13. Members were pleased to see this course of action being taken by the Council and urged the authority to publicise the scheme as much as possible to get the message across that the Council will prosecute. It was hoped that the exercising of the new regulations would deter people from committing the act and financially punish offenders. Thanks was given to the Neighbourhood Officers who worked hard to identify the culprits and educate people to help change behavioural patterns.
14. Authority was delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Early Intervention to implement the Unauthorised Deposit of Waste (Fixed Penalties) Regulations 2016. He would in turn, grant delegated authority to designated officers within the Council and PCSO's to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for fly-tipping.

Chorley VCFS Commissioning – End of year two review

15. The report of the Chief Executive was presented by the Executive Member (Early Intervention). The report provided an update on the performance of the commissioned VCFS providers during 2015/16, year two of the three year contract. Overall performance of all of the commissioned providers remained excellent and all of the organisations have met or exceeded all the aims as set out in their contracts.
16. Contract reviews had been undertaken with each of the providers to consider overall performance and give an opportunity to highlight any issues in delivery. An update on each of the contracts was appended to the report.
17. Delivery of the final contract year has now commenced and monitoring will continue to take place on a quarterly basis, with final year monitoring and evaluation planned for the end of March 2017.

Executive Cabinet response to the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group Review of the Single Front Office

19. The report of the Director of Customer and Digital was presented by the Executive Member (Customer and Advice Services) and provided our response to the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group Review of the Single Front Office undertaken in 2015 and reported to Executive Cabinet in February 2016.
20. The Cabinet have accepted all the recommendations and the report outlined the actions that had already been taken to address each one and progress made to date.
21. Councillor Graham Dunn thanked all those who had contributed to the inquiry.

Key Partnerships monitoring report

22. To ensure the effective monitoring of the Council's key partnerships, a report of the Director of Policy and Governance was presented by the Deputy Leader and Executive Member (Resources) and provided an update on the performance of the Council's key partnership arrangements.
23. Overall performance of all the key partnerships was generally strong and the financial assessments of the partnerships are positive with the financial standing of the majority of key partnerships remaining strong or improving.

Recommendation

24. To note the report

COUNCILLOR ALISTAIR BRADLEY
EXECUTIVE LEADER

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