

REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

This report summarises the business considered at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 12 October, the special Overview and Scrutiny Committees which considered the Council's Waste Contract, the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel held on 21 September, and includes an update on the task group review.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – THURSDAY, 12 OCTOBER 2017

Crime and Disorder Scrutiny - Counter Terrorism

Within the Counter Terrorism Act 2015, there was a specific requirement for all local authorities to give due regard to the need for people being radicalised and drawn into terrorism. The Prevent duty commenced for local authorities on 1 July 2015. This new area of responsibility for the Council, required new ways of working, data sharing, processes and training which had been developed in partnership with other councils and Lancashire Police.

Members of the Committee sought an update on how the council was meeting its obligations of the Prevent duty and a report was presented before the Committee. The report provided information on the work of the council, and included the findings of a recent internal audit of the service, and recommendations for future improvements to the council's response.

Resulting analysis of the Prevent work undertaken at the end of March 2016 concluded that the council's future Prevent action plan in Chorley over the next eighteen months would focus on four key areas –

- Increased partnership and community awareness;
- Community cohesion and tolerance;
- Internet security in public buildings;
- Review of child and adult safeguarding.

The Committee was informed that three key members of staff had been trained to deliver the Prevent Home Office Training. They have now gone on to deliver the same training to 114 colleagues across the council and partner services. Other training delivered included a Member Learning Session in which 11 members attended and an online training course which was mandatory for all employees. Reference to Prevent was also contained in the council's adult and child safeguarding revised policies.

Debate focused on –

- Council policies that conflict with the Prevent duty (ie the Digital Inclusion Strategy which encourages more open access, had the potential to create issues in relation to internet security);
- emergency plans in place between partner organisations, headed up by the emergency services in the case of a terrorist attack (or any other disaster);
- confirmation, that the building design for three of the council's major building projects (Market Walk extension; Primrose Gardens, and the Youth Zone) would incorporate security measures as part of the planning and design stage and not following their completion.

Communications

Members of the Committee had, for some time, indicated that they wished to hold a review on the topic of communications. To aid the Committee in deciding what aspect of communications they wanted to review a report was presented which provided information on the role and responsibilities of the Council's Communications and Events team and the role other services had to play in communicating both internally and externally.

Following a debate it was agreed that a report be prepared to consider a broader review of how members are kept informed about key areas of work being delivered by officers' to be presented at the next Committee meeting on 25 January 2018.

Overview and Scrutiny Task Group: Child Sexual Exploitation - response of Executive Cabinet

At its meeting on the 3 August, the Executive Cabinet agreed to the recommendations put forward by the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group in to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). The 10 recommendations had been broken down into 5 key areas –

- Training and awareness raising for elected members and officers
- Taxi trade and licensing community training
- Work with partners in producing appropriate materials/delivering events to raise CSE awareness amongst parents and guardians, improve links and maintain links with secondary and primary school
- Elected members personal safety guidance
- The council to continue to raise awareness within the community

These areas and the actions required have formed the CSE Action Plan for 2017/18.

It was reported that the majority of the taxi trade had been trained in identifying the signs of CSE. A further session would be arranged for those drivers who had yet to be trained. Once all taxi drivers (licensed through Chorley Council) have been trained, it is intended that the training will be rolled out to other licensing trades.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WHOLE COMMITTEE REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S WASTE CONTRACT – THURSDAY, 24 OCTOBER AND THURSDAY, 30 NOVEMBER 2017

In advance of the Council's Waste Contract with Veolia expiring on 31 March 2019, consultant, Ricardo AEA was appointed to provide consultancy support and model a number of options for the new contract. The consultant's findings were presented to the Executive Cabinet, at its meeting on 14 December.

On the Chair's proposal, it was agreed that the whole Committee would review the Council's waste contract and the consultant's findings in advance of a report being considered by the Executive Cabinet.

The review was conducted over two meetings to which the Executive Member for Customer, Advice and Streetscene Services, Director of Customer and Digital and the Waste and Streetscene Manager were present.

The first meeting looked at the financial saving required in the MTFs, and risks relating to the contract (financial and reputational). Details of the service delivery models, waste collection service options and the procurement timetable was also discussed.

At the second meeting, members of the Committee considered the findings and proposed model options of the appointed consultant as well as the recommendations that the Executive Cabinet would be asked to consider.

After careful consideration, the Committee agreed to support the following recommendations

1. That the outcome of the modelling work be included in the report to the Executive Cabinet on 14 December 2017.
2. For the waste collection service to remain outsourced, with tender documents to be prepared on the existing service and to extend the blue bin collection cycle to four weekly.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE PANEL – 21 SEPTEMBER 2017

Performance Focus: Customer and Digital Context

Members of the Performance Panel considered a report by the Director of Policy and Governance which provided contextual information in regards to an update on Waste and Streetscene performance and the delivery of the Digital Strategy 2017/20. The Chair welcomed the Executive Member for Customer, Advice and Streetscene and the Director of Customer and Digital.

The Performance Panel was informed on the modernisation improvements that had been implemented and changes to working arrangements in the areas of –

- Waste
- Streetscene
- Digital Strategy

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE PANEL – 30 November 2017

Performance Focus - Council's Communications and Events Team.

The Performance Panel considered a report which provided information on the events being delivered by the Council's Communications and Events Team.

Since 2009, the Council's events delivery had significantly increased from two annual events (Picnic in the Park and the Christmas lights switch on), to a yearlong programme of activities designed for people of all ages which included –

- What's your story, Chorley?
- Chorley Grand Prix
- Theatre in the Park x 2
- Picnic in the Park
- Taste of Chorley
- Chorley Live

The report also included a summary of the financial cost in delivering each event, the revenue generated, and the number of attendees.

As part of its work, the Communications and Events Team was also responsible for internal and external communications including press enquires, social media, branding and website development.

During debate, members of the Performance Panel discussed many aspects of the events which included –

- Customer satisfaction surveys being used to gather information on the economic and social aspect of the event,
- Marketing methods and promotions; particularly in rural areas
- Chorley Grand Prix – sponsorship
- Chorley Live to increase the number of venues in light of its popularity

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY TASK GROUP

Council's Leisure Contract

In addition to the Council's Waste Contract expiring in the next few years, so too is the Council's Leisure Contract. The contract is due to expire in 2020, with a formal review being conducted in 2018. Pulse Regeneration was appointed consultant to review the current contract, carry out research into leisure provision both nationally and locally, and provided model options for the Executive Cabinet approval. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered that it was timely to undertake a Task Group review to study the findings of the consultant and that of officers of the council.

The Task Group, Chaired by Councillor Alistair Morwood met five times, and gathered evidence from Active Nation, Lancashire Care Foundation Trust, and officers from the Council's Early Intervention and Support, Legal and Human Resources teams. The Task Group also considered the findings and recommendations of Pulse Regeneration.

The final report of the Task Group will be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 25 January 2018, before being submitted to the meeting of the Executive Cabinet on 15 February for their consideration and implementation.

COUNCILLOR JOHN WALKER
CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE