

REPORT OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

General Report

1. This report summarises the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 10 February 2009 and 23 March 2009.

Meeting held on 10 February 2009

Business Plan Monitoring Statements - Third Quarter of 2008/2009

2. We received the third quarter Business Plan Monitoring Statements from the Business, Neighbourhoods, People Business Transformation Policy and Performance Directorates.
3. We discussed several points including the Growth Point bid and noted that the street cleansing team had won a national award. We noted that the Customer Relationship Management project was now on track and the shared services with South Ribble had taken a lot of time, but would deliver significant savings.

Performance Monitoring Report - Third Quarter of 2008/09

4. We considered the report setting out performance against the Corporate Strategy and the Council's National Indicators for the third quarter of 2008/09.
5. We agreed that a report on the performance of the Revenues and Benefits team on all relevant indicators would be brought to a future meeting.

Chorley Partnership's Performance Report - Third Quarter of 2008/09

6. We received the report outlining the Chorley Partnership's performance over the 3rd quarter of 2008/9 on the Local Area Agreement and the Sustainable Community Strategy projects.
7. Some statistics relating to crime were tabled and discussed. We noted that the mortgage rescue scheme would be promoted by staff within the one stop shop with customers who would benefit from it.

Update from Task and Finish Groups

8. I reported that the last meeting of the Joint Scrutiny of Affordable Housing with South Ribble and Preston task group had been productive. Several recommendations had been identified on the supply of land and identifying smaller sites on boundaries between the boroughs for affordable housing. The inquiry would be drawing to a close in the next few months.
9. Councillor Mike Devaney advised that the Chair of the Local Strategic Partnership had been interviewed by the Chorley Partnership task group. His feedback had been interesting and potential recommendations had been made, including the suggestion that right commercial and industrial units should be ready for businesses to move into. It was noted the positive attitude from Council officers at Chorley had been a key factor in his business moving to Chorley.

10. The report of the Housing Allocation Policy task and finish group was tabled. Councillor Mike Devaney explained that no customers would lose out and the new policy would be easier to understand and transparent.
11. We agreed several recommendations to be submitted as part of the Housing Allocations Policy consultation process.
 - a. Existing tenants could benefit from a mechanism to transfer to a house that became available in another location and subject to ensuring the policy complies with the law officers will develop a mechanism for transfers.
 - b. A system should be devised to preclude customers with a certain level of savings and or capital assets from housing allocation to ensure more deserving customers are not disadvantaged.
 - c. When the Policy has been finalised Members might find a Member Learning Hour useful on the Housing Allocations Policy and Choice Based Lettings.

Meeting held on 23 March 2009

12. Following a brief meeting of the Committee we welcomed other Members to the meeting for a review of the year event. This included:
 - a discussion on the achievements of Overview and Scrutiny this year and task and finish groups
 - a short self-assessment session
 - an updated toolkit
 - consideration of topics for 2009/10.
13. It was pleasing to see that all Members felt that Scrutiny does challenge and impact on the work of the Executive Cabinet and that Members are generally satisfied with the new structure.
14. The revised toolkit and work programme will be agreed at the first meeting in May. The outcome of the review session will inform the Annual Report on the work of Overview and Scrutiny.

Recommendation

15. The Council is recommended to note this report.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS EDGERLEY
Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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There are no background papers to this report.