

Minutes of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Meeting date Thursday, 6 October 2022

Committee Members present: Councillor John Walker (Chair), Councillor Roy Lees (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Sarah Ainsworth, James Nevett, Aidy Riggott, Kim Snape, Michelle Le Marinel, Dedrah Moss, Alan Platt, Arjun Singh and Ryan Towers

Committee Members present virtually (non-voting): Councillors Hasina Khan, Samir Khan and Jenny Whiffen

Other Members Present: Councillor Terry Howarth (Howarth – Executive Member for Homes and Housing)

Officers: Jennifer Mullin (Director of Communities), Zoe Whiteside (Service Lead - Spatial Planning), and Matthew Pawlyszyn (Democratic and Member Services Officer)

A video recording of the public session of this meeting is available to view on [YouTube here](#)

11 Minutes of Meeting Thursday, 7 July 2022 of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Resolved: That the minutes be approved as a correct record.

12 Minutes of Meeting, Wednesday 27 July 2022 of Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel

Resolved: That the minutes be approved as a correct record.

13 Minutes of Meeting Thursday, 22 September 2022 of Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel

Resolved: That the minutes be approved as a correct record.

14 Declarations of Any Interests

No interests were declared.

15 Public Questions

There were no public questions.

16 Executive Cabinet Minutes

Members queried the progress at Brinscall swimming baths, due to the previous meeting of the Executive Cabinet cancellation, decisions would be made at the next Executive Cabinet.

Resolved: That the minutes of the Executive Cabinet be noted.

17 Notice of Executive Decisions

Resolved: That the notice of Executive Decisions be noted.

18 Health Scrutiny

Written reports were provided by Councillor Alex Hilton and Councillor Margaret France.

The Committee wished Councillor Hilton a speedy recovery from Covid-19.

The updates highlighted that two hospitals were likely to be built, one in Preston and the other in Lancaster. There was uncertainty as to when work would be started, and it was estimated it could take up to six years for completion.

Members that observed the meeting stated that the news was positive, however, no information was provided as to the funding of the hospital or where the staff would come from.

Members were happy that there were no plans to close Chorley Hospital.

Resolved: That the update be noted.

19 Long-Term Empty Properties

This item was deferred to the next Overview and Scrutiny Meeting due to take place Thursday, 26 January 2023.

20 Sustainable Public Transport Third Monitoring Report

Zoe Whiteside, Service Lead – Spatial Planning presented the final Monitoring report for Sustainable Public Transport.

18 of the recommendations were completed or close to completion, 5 were in progress, and a number of recommendations would be ongoing within the team due to progress and development of the local plan, which were routinely monitored by the Local Plan Working Group and the Central Lancashire Strategic Planning Joint Advisory Committee.

Key recommendations were highlighted by Zoe and Members.

Recommendation 1 - Chorley Council to proactively lobby and engage with Lancashire County Council to encourage a greater role on bus route tendering, service enhancement and communication between all parties.

Details provided by the County Council of their Enhanced Partnership plan, and it aimed to deliver key objectives which included lower fares, simplified ticketing, and a customer charter and in place from 1 April 2022. The partnership contained a governance structure, with a management board and a forum of stakeholders.

Members wished for the Enhanced Partnership to be monitored, in respect to the impact on Chorley, it was noted that fares increased due to Greater Manchester's proposed clean air zone, and again with franchising in Greater Manchester on cross border routes.

It was highlighted that monitoring the Enhanced Partnership would be a considerable piece of work and Chorley Council would be unable to influence decisions, but an update could be provided in the future.

Members praised the potential of the offers, incentives and support available but expressed concern with the logistics of discount for jobseekers and claimants of Universal Credit, and did not run the risk of any benefit claimants being humiliated on the bus by requiring proof, and desired the process to frictionless.

Recommendation 3 - Spatial Planning to invite Lancashire County Council to participate in a Member Learning session on the Central Lancashire Highways and Transport Masterplan draft proposals

The County Council were still in the early stages of the Masterplan and commissioned Jacobs. Lancashire County Council to run a Member Learning Session 14 November 2022. The session to provide details on public transport, the work undertaken, funding, the local plan and the model used to identify investment in transport. Details to be provided to the County Council to ensure the session was not too broad.

Recommendation 7 - The Council engage with Greater Manchester Combined Authority/Lancashire County Council on cross boundary routes should the Greater Manchester Combined Authorities instigate franchising and request to be consulted on how bus services are run across cross boundary routes and be included in their integrated ticketing scheme.

Members noted that the County Council would not engage with Chorley Council but a follow up would be beneficial.

It was highlighted that as it was a County responsibility, it was not information that would be collected, however concerns could be vocalised and fed back. Members expressed concern about the implications for Chorley with the integrated ticketing scheme.

Recommendation 9 - The Council continues to progress discussions with Lancashire County Council to take over the Chorley Interchange.

Members wanted this to be returned to the Council and were disappointed that this was not progressed due to viability.

Recommendation 16 - The Council should explore the feasibility of attracting a community car share club to the borough.

Members raised that following Covid-19, it would be important to gain a greater understanding as to whether the time and investment required for such a scheme would see results and use.

Recommendation 18 - The Council will work with all transport partners to improve accessibility, timetable and facility provision across the borough including an Oyster card for all journeys.

Members expressed disappointment that this recommendation was closed. It was stated that there was a grant approved by central government, but the progress was uncertain. Progress to be sought from Mark Lester, Director (Commercial Services) Members agreed that it would be damaging to the town if the main station closed. It was explained that the County Council had no interest in an Oyster type scheme, and backed their Enhanced Partnership.

Recommendation 20 - Establish a Cycle Task Group to look at cycle opportunities, and cycle routes in the borough

It was agreed that the cycling package of work would be developed and reported to the Climate Change Working Group. The first update was given 26 July 2022, the next report was to be given at the end of November. There were five or six actions that related to cycling, such as the dedicated cycling storage, e-charging for bikes, and a cycling survey. Four bike shelters located at Bengal Street were installed, however they have not been used despite high demand from staff. It was hypothesised that the unfamiliarity with the depot deterred their use, in addition to the rise of hybrid working, staff may only attend the Town Hall or Union Street for meetings. Further promotion of the bike shelters to encourage staff participation before consideration was given to locate them in the town centre.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

21 Overview and Scrutiny Task Group - Select Move Final Report

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group – Select Move Councillor June Molyneaux presented the Final Report, thanked, the Vice Chair Councillor Sarah Ainsworth, the membership of the task group and the officers involved.

The Task Group was formed as there were concerns that the recommendations made in 2014 by a previous Task Group were no longer being adhered to. The Task Group engaged with partner Local Authorities, South Ribble Borough Council and Preston City Council, and shared concerns and issues were highlighted. A survey to users went out and it was noted that there was a low response rate, but the views provided patterns and reiterated common concerns raised throughout the Task Group, and it was felt that Select Move was not currently fit for purpose, and the report reflected the changes required.

The recommendations within the report were identified throughout the course of the Task Group with and formed following discussions with the neighbouring local authorities, RP's in the partnership, the Allocations Policy Consultant, the MP, the results from the survey, the Select Move Co-Ordinator.

Members of the Task Group believed that the recommendations from the Task Group should provide positive momentum and change within the Select Move partnership.

Members felt that it was a good recommendation to frequently provide a questionnaire to monitor the feedback and views of users, and would be worthwhile to incentivise the completion the surveys, it was acknowledged that those that were happy or satisfied may not fill in a survey where as those discontented would be more likely to reply, however the survey did contain positive feedback, but over half the respondents were unsatisfied.

Jennifer Mullin (Director of Communities) acknowledged that there were concerns, but what could be delivered from the Task Group would be, and it was stated that there were shared concerns with Preston City Council and South Ribble Borough Council, and the partners were aware of issues and with regular meetings, and information sharing, all within the partnership want to make the process easier, straightforward and efficient.

Resolved: That the Task Group Final Report be noted

22 Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

An informal workshop to be held in November to decide the next Overview and Scrutiny Task group.

Resolved: That the Work Programme be noted.

Chair

Date