

**Minutes of** **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Meeting date** **Thursday, 1 July 2021**

**Members present:** Councillor John Walker (Chair), Councillor Roy Lees (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Sarah Ainsworth, Julia Berry, John Dalton, Terry Howarth, Hasina Khan, Samir Khan, June Molyneaux, James Nevett, Aidy Riggott, William Simmance, Kim Snape and Jenny Whiffen

**Officers:** Chris Sinnott (Deputy Chief Executive), Ruth Rimmington (Democratic Services Team Leader), and Matthew Pawlyszyn (Democratic and Member Services Officer).

**Other Members:** Councillor Alex Hilton

**20.OS.24 Minutes of Meeting Thursday, 18 March 2021 of Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Decision:** The minutes of the meeting Thursday, 18 March 2021 were approved as a correct record.

**20.OS.25 Declarations of Any Interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

**20.OS.26 Public Questions**

There were no public questions.

**20.OS.27 Executive Cabinet Minutes**

**a Minutes of Meeting Thursday, 25 March 2021 of Executive Cabinet**

**Decision:** The minutes of the meeting Thursday, 25 March 2021 were noted.

**b Minutes of Meeting Thursday, 17 June 2021 of Executive Cabinet**

**Decision:** The minutes of the meeting Thursday, 17 June 2021 were noted.

**20.OS.28 Notice of Executive Decisions**

In response to a question relating to the Leisure Centre contract, Chris Sinnott, Deputy Chief Executive told that the procurement process resulted in the preferred bidder to withdraw due to the impact of Covid-19 in August 2020. The Council took the decision to take over direct management, this happened 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020, and all employees were now under Council employment. Options for the management was presented to full Council in April 2021 and the decision made was for the council to establish a Wholly Owned Company to manage the leisure centre.

It was recommended that September or October was a good time to explore the Wholly Owned Company to allow time for it establish and begin operation.

**Decision: The notice of Executive Decisions was noted.**

## **20.OS.29 Health Scrutiny**

The Committee welcomed Councillor Alex Hilton who attended via Microsoft Teams.

Councillor Hilton introduced himself to the new members of the committee and explained his background within the NHS and summarised the content and presentations of the Lancashire County Council's Health Scrutiny.

There were significant changes occurring to the National Health Service. The Our Health Our Care had been discontinued in favour of Integrated Care Systems.

Healthier Lancashire and South Cumbria partnership of health care organisations provided a presentation and explained the white paper for NHS reform that was expected to have a second reading in parliament in July. The process to start in October and be completed by April 2022. The Integrated Care Systems in Lancashire and South Cumbria was to be split into five sub regions, with Chorley part of Central Lancashire. Covid-19 was acknowledged to be potential issue to the roll out of the programme.

This decision was made to slow the process and reverse the competitive nature between NHS Foundation Trusts and private sector providers and to encourage collaboration. With the Integrated Care Systems, the Third Sector – voluntary and community groups would play a partner role.

The Health Scrutiny Committee were able to use National NHS waiting list figures as part of their programme to measure improvements.

The Lancashire Health Scrutiny Committee received a presentation from the Lancashire County Council's Director of Adult Services in relation to collaborating with neighboring councils to form hospital alliances, similar to Manchester.

It was understood that Covid-19 had a significant impact on social care, but the full extent was still unknown.

Work was outlined to be completed around inequalities for those with learning difficulties, and legislation was expected in April 2022.

There were concerns with the workload of the Health Scrutiny Committee and a shortlist of work was to be created.

Abdul Razaq spoke about public health, Covid-19 and vaccination response.

There were questions and concerns about winter planning set for October rather than sooner, especially with the need for potential Covid-19 boosters, and flu vaccines. There were concerns that the needs of high intensity users were not being met.

Members asked if the move from Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's) to Integrated Care Systems would lead to regionalisation of services and if there was a risk that accountability would be lost. Members followed up and felt that there was also a risk of regional based hospitals, many from more deprived areas would not be able to access.

Councillor Hilton was uncertain at present but it was possible, but he would ensure that the views of Chorley were represented throughout the process.

Councillor Hilton added that Covid-19 had been a predominant feature of the health landscape, the aim was to get as many vaccinated as possible, but there were concerns about the backlog of routine care since Covid-19 started.

**Decision: The update was noted.**

#### **20.OS.30 Chorley Council's Response to Covid-19**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee welcomed Chris Sinnott, Deputy Chief Executive to give a presentation highlighting the efforts of the Council during the Covid-19 pandemic.

(Councillor Kim Snape joined 19:01)

Programmes were developed and rolled out to ensure those shielding were given the support needed. Staff accepted additional responsibilities to support residents.

(Councillor June Molyneux joined 19:03)

A significant amount of planning, effort and focused work went into the Lancashire Resilience Forum (LRF), a partnership made up of organisations that work together to prepare and respond to emergencies in Lancashire. The LRF involved the emergency services; local authorities; health agencies; Environment Agency; voluntary groups; transport providers; utility providers and local businesses to ensure resources were effectively used.

The initial response was to keep staff safe and service running effectively, ensuring the workplace was Covid-19 secure and that staff were able and confidently work from home.

Democratic Services ensured that Councillors were up to date and work could continue safely.

Over 3000 households were supported by volunteers within the Council and the Community. 4700 calls were made to those on the shielding list and 1100 food parcels were delivered to the community. Many residents reported a positive change of perspective in how they viewed the Council.

Businesses in the Borough were significantly impacted, over £40m was processed in grants, 4000 businesses were supported directly, over 70 businesses attended

webinars, and 40 booked appointments with advisors to receive help and support throughout the pandemic.

A new team was established and became one of the first to take on the Zero Covid-19 Programme. The team took over the role of track and trace with a success rate of 95% which was greater than the national average. The team assisted the local primary care network with the roll out of lateral flow testing and now the vaccination bus.

The Council's core services, and projects have been ongoing. The process of shared services continued with reviews conducted of terms and conditions, pay grades, and agreed expansion.

Challenges included the quarter four performance with indicators off track. There had been an increase of 16-17-year old's not in employment, education, or training (NEET). Ongoing work was required to support the recovery of the local economy. There was an increased number of young people reporting concerns with their mental health with an increase in reported self-harm.

Council staff to begin a phased return scheme from the 19 July, but there was uncertainty around the lifting of restrictions. A workplace strategy had been developed exploring how staff could adapt post Covid-19 and work in patterns that fit with the shared services agenda across Chorley and South Ribble. An emphasis was placed on ensuring staff felt that they were receiving the right amount of support, while maintaining the flexibility and balance within the organisation.

Members thanked Chris Sinnott for attending and presenting to the Committee, an issue was raised about the conflict between resolving issues inside the homes of residents and policies of keeping staff safe. It was acknowledged that there had been challenges but efforts have been made to adapt work to ensure all issues were attended to, support had been given but further issues could be raised with relevant directors.

Members with experience of the LRF praised the positives for Lancashire and there was optimism that there would be further cooperation between organisations. Chris Sinnott agreed and felt that at the executive level of the council, there was a desire for further cooperation. In response to a question about some volunteers failing to be communicated with, overall, there were high levels of positive feedback from both volunteers and those supported.

Members praised and acknowledged that the different diverse communities of Chorley came together to help each other throughout the pandemic.

There was not a precise vaccine figure for Chorley. But the Borough was doing better than the rest of Lancashire, although the more deprived areas such as Chorley East had fallen behind, work was ongoing with the NHS to encourage people from these communities to access the vaccine.

Chorley Council wanted to maximise the amount of money out the door to support local business and into the local economy, but it was noted that many grants have criteria that needed to be met. Once the grants close, the Council will need to report back to the Government and undertake post grant assurance to ensure that the correct grants were processed correctly to the right recipient. The understanding had

been that those chasing the grants were chasing their livelihoods and the Council wanted to process each claim as efficiently as possible but done the right way.

**Decision: The presentation was noted.**

**20.OS.31 Scrutiny Reporting Back: Chorley Council's Annual Report on Overview and Scrutiny in 2020/21**

Members acknowledged the work that scrutiny completed in the previous year and thanked officers for their assistance.

**Decision: The report was noted.**

**20.OS.32 Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme**

The Chair updated Members of the Committee following the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel, he acknowledged the questions and format of the Panel but told that following a meeting with Officers, no changes would be made, but apologised for not bringing in Councillor Lowe to give the report.

Members agreed that the following topics would be considered for the Work Programme.

- Enforcement
  - o Planning,
  - o Environmental Health with noise or litter
  - o Staffing, targets, and performance indicators
- Cycling, pathways, and routes.
- Review of Select Move
- Chorley Magistrates Court
- Local level health provisions

It was acknowledged that members would like to explore cardboard recycling but agreed that the Committee would wait for the next Quarter Report.

**Decision: The Work Programme was noted.**

Chair

Date