

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 19th June 2017

Present: Councillor Lythgoe (Chair)
Councillors James and Janet Eaton, Hughes, Johnson,
Kempson, Kenyon, Marriott, Morris and Robertson

In Attendance: Clare Law, HR Manager
Sam Plum, Director of Communities
Ray Kay, Policy & Performance Officer
Jenni Cook, Committee & Member Services Officer

Also Present: Councillors A. Barnes, Lamb, Oakes and Farrington
2 members of the public
0 members of the press

Prior to the start of the meeting, a minute's silence was held for the victims of the Grenfell Tower fire and the incident at Finsbury Park Mosque.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were noted as follows:-

- Councillor Lynda Barnes - Councillor James Eaton substituting
- Councillor Bromley – Councillor Marriott substituting
- Councillor McMahon – Councillor Hughes substituting
- Councillor Janet Graham – Councillor Janet Eaton substituting

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13th March 2017 be agreed as a correct record.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Morris declared an interest in Item 7 of the minutes in that he was a member of the Leisure Trust Board and on the RTB.

Councillor Marriott declared an interest in Item 11 of the minutes in that he was a member on Rossendale Transport.

4. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chair agreed to deviate from the Procedure for Public Speaking and allow the members of the public to ask questions as the reports were discussed.

6. CHAIR'S UPDATE

6.1 There were no communications from the Chair.

7. QUARTER 4 INTEGRATED PERFORMANCE REPORT

7.1 The Quarter 4 Integrated Performance report was noted by the Chair

7.2 Members and members of the public asked questions and discussed the report as follows:-

- The 2 new officers noted at 5.1 of the report were clarified and this information was usually circulated by Daily Message.
- The remit and membership of ASBRAC and the Children's Partnership Board was clarified and the Neighbourhood Forums should be made aware of these bodies.
- The 'unknown' classifications within the report were noted to be where information had not been received, particularly with regard to crime statistics. It was noted that regular meetings with the Police did take place at many levels within the Council, however it was noted that perhaps contact could be made with the Police to express the importance of receiving the statistics.
- Recycling statistics were discussed and it was noted that figures which fell under the remit of Lancashire County Council were available from them.
- The Trailhead Centre at Futures Park was discussed and it was noted that there were no plans at this stage to carry out a survey of local businesses that may be affected, however this may be done at a later stage if required.
- Calico would be attending the July meeting to provide an update on the Empty Homes Programme.
- LI1 and LI2 were noted as being no longer relevant and the HR Manager would check whether the contingent liability of these PIs was being monitored.
- It was queried whether the Judicial Review with regards to licensing conditions should be on the risk register. It was noted that a date for this process to begin had just come through that week and would commence around 8th October 2017.
- It was noted that the Council was looking to move away from the Covalent system and that a new format for reporting was being considered.

Resolved:

That the report is noted.

8. RESPONSES TO THE DRUG AND ALCOHOL PROVISION IN ROSSENDALE TASK AND FINISH GROUP

8.1 The Chair introduced the report which outlined the responses which had been received to the Drug and Alcohol services provision in Rossendale Task and Finish

Group Report. It was noted that the Task and Finish Group's work had been informative.

8.2 Members and members of the public asked questions and discussed the report as follows:-

- Concerns were noted regarding the loss of the STAR centre.
- Clarification was required on the One Stop Shop providing a room for an outreach session. The Director of Communities agreed to look into this. It was noted that any offers of locations for outreach sessions also needed the relevant staffing and arrangements to be in place.
- The impact of drop-in sessions changing to appointment sessions was discussed and it was noted that these organisations were doing their best under the circumstances.
- It was suggested that Addaction could be asked to attend O&S on an annual basis and that future Task and Finish Group reports should detail the Chair and Membership of the Group.
- It was noted that no full cost of the impact of drug/alcohol/associated crime could be recorded, however the annual cost to the NHS was around £15.4bn.

Resolved:

The report was noted.

9. COMMUNICATIONS TASK AND FINISH GROUP REPORT

9.1 Councillor Hughes introduced the report which outlined the work undertaken by the Communications Task and Finish Group.

9.2 The Group had started out with a very broad remit which was to investigate whether the current methods of communication used by the Council to communicate with customers was fit for purpose. During the early days of the Group, it became apparent that the implementation of the new website and telephony system would resolve many of the queries and issues with regards to contact. However, it was clear that other communication issues needed to be addressed and these issues had been put into an 'Issues Log' (circulated at the meeting). The Issues Log had been to Corporate Management Team and responses were noted. The Task and Finish Group's work had started a conversation within the Council regarding communication and interaction.

9.3 Members and members of the public asked questions and discussed the report as follows:-

- It was queried whether individual offices contact details should be published online and it was noted that departmental numbers were available, however it was better to go through one main contact number to ensure that a caller received a response and/or was put through to the correct department.
- It was noted that the testing phase for the new website was due to commence w/c 22nd June, with a go live date sometime mid-August.
- A member of the public queried whether the online calendar of meetings was still available and this would be looked into.
- It was clarified that the contact list of officers provided to elected members was usually updated every 3 months.

Resolved:

1. That the report is noted.
2. That the Cabinet or the relevant portfolio holder provides a response to the report within 2 months.

10. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT TASK AND FINISH GROUP – PHASE 2 REPORT

10.1 Councillor Lythgoe introduced the report which outlined the work undertaken by the Performance Management Task and Finish Group during phase 2 of their work. The remit of the Group had shifted over time and had focussed on target setting and simpler presentation. It had been suggested that were a service area was experiencing issues; the Performance Task and Finish Group could reconvene to investigate this in more detail.

10.2 Members and members of the public asked questions and discussed the report as follows:-

- It was noted that there were some frustrations with the current performance management systems and report and analysing historical data.
- Service areas were best placed to set their own targets.

Resolved

1. That the report is noted.
2. That the Cabinet or the relevant portfolio holder provides a response to the report within 2 months.

11. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

11.1 Councillor Lythgoe introduced the report which outlined the work undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Task and Finish Groups during 2016/17.

11.2 Members and members of the public asked questions and discussed the report as follows:-

- An update on Dog Fouling was scheduled to come to the September meeting.
- Councillor Johnson offered to pass the dog fouling stencil to Councillor James Eaton once she had finished with it.

Resolved

That the report is noted and is sent to Full Council for information.

12. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18

12.1 Councillor Lythgoe introduced the report which set out the proposed work programme for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2017/18.

12.2 Members and members of the public asked questions and discussed the report as follows:-

- The impact of welfare reforms was worth looking into and a Task and Finish Group could be considered.
- The suicide rate in Rossendale could tie into welfare reforms and it was noted that the CCG would also be a good source of statistics on this matter.

Resolved

That the 2017/18 Work Programme is noted and is sent to Full Council for information.

13. THE FORWARD PLAN

13.1 The Forward Plan and its contents were noted.

Resolved:

The Forward Plan was noted.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 7.30pm

Signed:_____

Date:_____