

**Minutes of:** **PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Date of Meeting:** 17 February 2009

**PRESENT:** Councillor Sandiford (Chair)  
Councillors Crawforth, L Barnes, Lamb, Stansfield,  
Thorne

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Phil Seddon, Head of Finance  
Lee Birkett, Project and Performance Implementation Officer  
Emma Hussain, Principal Policy Officer  
Pat Couch, Scrutiny Support Officer  
Councillor Brian Essex, Portfolio Holder for Finance and  
Resources  
Councillor Anne Cheetham

**ALSO PRESENT:** 2 Members of the public

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**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Bernard Divine (Co-opted Member).

**2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

**Resolved:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2009 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

**3. URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent items for discussion.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were made.

**5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The two members of the public in attendance wished to ask questions on the budget report and therefore the Chair agreed to allow them to speak following the presentation on the budget report.

## **6. CHAIRS UPDATE**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Lee Birkett, Performance Officer and Emma Hussain, Principal Policy Officer, to the meeting.

The Chair reported that further to the last meeting, a response group had met to reply to Lancashire County Council's Social Services and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to the transfer of Accident and Emergency Services from Burnley Hospital to Blackburn Hospital.

The Lancashire County Council's Social Services and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on 17 February to discuss the final report. The report highlighted 21 recommendations to the East Lancashire Primary Care Trust for action. A copy of the report was also sent to the Strategic Health Authority, Secretary of State for Health and the Independent Reconfiguration Panel for information.

The Scrutiny Officer circulated guidance on the Councilor Call for Action which would have an impact on scrutiny in the future.

## **7. BUDGET REPORT 2009/10**

The Chair indicated that the Budget report would be presented to the Cabinet on 18 February and that she would present the views of the Committee, as part of the consultation process to the Cabinet meeting.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources presented the report on the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy. He explained that since the process first began in July 2008, the economic situation had meant that there was a need to re-look at the budget.

The Head of Finance informed the Committee of the following

- Rossendale Grant income of £35,000
- Implications for the Council should concessionary travel move to upper tier
- £900,000 of efficiency savings
- Increase of Council Tax of under 3%

The Chair then gave members of the public the opportunity to ask questions, which were in relation to financial information regarding leisure, to which the Head of Finance responded.

In considering the report, Members discussed the following areas:

- Need to revisit the Accommodation Strategy
- Need to look at value for money within the Council, which the Chair indicated would be something that Scrutiny would consider during 2009/10

- Concern about the proposed increase in Members' Allowances

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources asked Members for their views on the proposed increase of Members' Allowances, which had been put forward by the Independent Remuneration Panel. The full report would be presented to Full Council on 26 February 2009.

**Resolved:**

That the comments of the Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee be presented to the Cabinet by the Chair.

**8. PERFORMANCE REPORT – QUARTER 3**

The Project and Performance Implementation Officer presented the integrated Performance Report for October to December 2008.

The report informs the Council of where they are in the delivery of services and how they are delivering on the targets they have set.

In relation to the achievements of targets against performance indicators, 69% were on or above target, 12% marginally below target, 12% below target and 7% unknown.

In relation to achieving actions set out in the Council's Corporate Plan, 87% were on track with no substantial issues of risk and 13% had some issues of risk which required action.

Concern was raised by members in relation to the delivery of an appropriate waste management infrastructure and Members asked for the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services and the Operations Manager to attend the next meeting to provide an update to members on options appraisal and feasibility study which had just been completed.

With regard to LI 156 – Buildings Accessible to People with a Disability, members again raised concern that the target of 99% would not be achievable and asked that the target be reduced until further re-developments had occurred.

Concern was also raised that there were still some service areas that were not providing full updates in the notes section of the reports and would ask for more details on the direction of travel of their service, particularly if their indicator was underachieving.

The Principal Policy Officer gave Members a brief overview of the different partnerships where scrutiny arrangements would exist, which were as follows.

- Lancashire Partnership – Local Area Agreements
- Corporate Plan – Rossendale Borough Council

- Rossendale Partnership – Sustainable Community Strategy
- Pennine Lancashire Leaders and Chief Executive Group – Multi Area Agreements

**Resolved:**

1. That the levels of performance be noted.
2. That a letter be sent to all Managers asking them to ensure that all relevant data is submitted to the Performance Officer on time and also to provide more details on the direction of travel for their service area within the notes section.
3. That the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services and the Operations Manager be asked to attend the next meeting to provide an update on the options appraisal and feasibility study which had been completed and was linked to Rossendale’s Waste Management Strategy.
4. That the Property Services Manager be asked to revise the target for LI 156, to present a more realistic target.
5. That the Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee agree to monitor the progress and activities delivered by the Local Area Agreements on a six monthly basis.
6. That the Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee agree to monitor the progress and activities delivered by Team Lancashire on a six monthly basis.

**9. EQUALITIES REPORT**

The Project and Performance Implementation Officer presented the results of the Equality Monitoring within Employment and Service Areas and advised Members of the current position of the Corporate Equality Action Plan.

A number of questions were raised which the Project and Performance Implementation Officer responded.

**Resolved:**

1. That the levels of equalities performance be noted.
2. That a further report be presented to the Committee in six months.

**The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 8.30pm**

**Signed .....** (Chair)  
**Date.....**