

Minutes of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 1 December 2009, starting 6.30pm
Present: Councillor J S Sutcliffe (Chairman)

Councillors:

D Berryman	T Hill
A Gridley	B Jones
R Hargreaves	I Sayers
J Hill	N Walsh

In attendance: Director of Community Services, Corporate Policy Officer and Community Development Officer.

Also in attendance: Councillor B Hilton.

637 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors G Geldard, K Hind, C Ross, M Thomas and J White.

638 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

639 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Waste Collection Working Group

Councillor Berryman asked if the suggested trip to the recycling centre at Barnsley had taken place yet. The Director of Community Services explained that whilst this had not happened, he was conscious that the Council would change to the countywide scheme some time in 2010. Two centres at Harrington and Poulton would become the recycling centres for Lancashire districts who were part of the county scheme.

Councillor Sayers commented on an educational video which had been produced on the need for recycling to be used in schools.

RESOLVED: That

1. the Director of Community Services organise a site visit to the Barnsley facility for any Members wishing to attend; and
2. enquiries be made from Lancashire County Council for the hire of the educational video to be shown at a future meeting of this Committee.

640 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at the meeting.

641 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

642 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS REPORT – QUARTER 2

The Principal Policy and Performance Officer presented her report giving the Quarter 2 figures for the Council's performance against national and local indicators.

She drew Committee's attention to the figures for CD16, attendances at sports development activities, which had been adversely affected by a reduction in staffing in that section. She commented that this target would need reviewing within Quarter 3.

Members also asked questions about the number of missed bins on refuse collection and the number of food and health and safety inspections currently being carried out.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

643 REPORT FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Hilton informed Committee of her attendance at various outside bodies which she represented the Council on. She highlighted four key issues:

- Lancashire County Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee which had discussed three key issues:
 1. A presentation by Age Concern, Hyndburn & Ribble Valley on the many areas of work which they were involved in with elderly people.
 2. Safeguarding Adults – looking at the physical, mental and financial wellbeing of older people – a briefing paper had been prepared by Lancashire County Council.
 3. Transforming community health services – a presentation had been made by Commissioners indicating that substantial changes are imminent arising from the separation of commissioning from provisions and that this area should become a social enterprise.
- East Lancs Oral Health Liaison Committee – At a recent meeting it had been stated that the number of complaints against dentists had reduced in recent months. She also felt that the regional health authorities

campaign to add fluoride to water supplies had stalled because of opposition from a number of quarters.

- Lancashire Links – She commented that Lancashire Links (the bodies that replaced the former Community Health Councils) were launching a massive information and recruitment drive to inform people about their work. An open day would be held in Nelson on 14 January 2010.
- Clitheroe Community Hospital – Councillor Hilton commented that this project, along with other capital projects, is currently on hold whilst East Lancashire Primary Care Trust carries out a review of its capital projects. This was of great concern to both the public of Ribble Valley and the Borough Council.

She reported that Health and Housing Committee had invited the Chief Executive of the Primary Trust to attend its next meeting in January 2010 to explain the PCT's current thinking on this project.

The Chairman also reminded Committee that there was a standing invite for the Primary Care Trust to return to this Committee in February 2010 for an update report on the project.

Some Members also felt that this matter should be discussed by full Council.

RESOLVED: That

1. Committee note the invite of the Primary Care Trust to Health and Housing Committee; and
2. the Director of Community Services also invite the Primary Care Trust to attend this Committee in February 2010 for an update report on the Clitheroe Community Hospital facility.

644 IMPROVING SCRUTINY FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS

The Community Development Officer referred to minute 454 of Committee dated 29 September 2009 and reported that, unfortunately, the meeting of the two working groups from this Committee and the Community Safety Partnerships had not yet met. Part of the reason for this was that the Lancashire Scrutiny Partnership Forum would be discussing this matter at its next meeting on the 11 December 2009, which would be held in Clitheroe. Both the Chairman and Vice Chairman had been invited to attend, along with Councillor Hill and it was hoped that some guidance could be obtained from this meeting at which the main speaker would be from the Lancashire Police Authority.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

645 TRAINING FOR SCRUTINY

The Chairman reported on his attendance at a Training for Scrutiny Seminar which had been held at County Hall, Preston, on 28 October 2009. The Vice Chairman had also attended. Whilst the Chairman had found some merit in the training seminar, he felt it was debatable how much had been learned on the scrutiny process. The Vice Chairman echoed these remarks.

There was a further discussion around the merits of only attending the Lancashire Partners Forum where all other Lancashire districts had a cabinet system in place. Officers were urged to talk more to fourth option councils to share common experiences on scrutiny.

It was commented that some Councils who have adopted the cabinet system were actually envious of Ribble Valley's fourth option position.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

646 WORKING GROUPS

(a) Traffic Calming

Councillor Sayers gave an update on the ongoing work of this group. He reported that 15 responses had now been received from Parish Councils with more expected. Councillor Thomas, the lead Councillor, had had a useful meeting with Peter Andrews from Lancashire County Council who had provided some helpful road accident statistics and information in relation to a variety of traffic calming measures. He also reported that there was £500,000 currently available in the Lancashire Transportation Plan for road traffic improvements.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(b) Planning Enforcement

Councillor Hill circulated a report on the work of this working group to date. He commented that there was concern about the capacity of planning enforcement staff, given the size of the Ribble Valley. It was recognised that planning enforcement was a reactive rather than a proactive service. There was concern that some individual applicants and agents "worked the system" as they knew the situation with planning enforcement.

A meeting had been arranged between the working group and planning enforcement officers on the 8 December 2009 to discuss the issues raised in the report. A further report would be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(c) Waste Collection

Councillor Hill referred to the discussions earlier in the meeting when it had been agreed that a trip to Barnsley should be organised.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(d) Leisure Services

The Chairman reported on a useful meeting which had been held between the working group and the Community Development Manager, Chris Hughes. It had become apparent during that meeting that the question of improving leisure services revolved around obtaining extra funding and the Council's existing budgets and ability to attract this outside funding. It was recognised that there was no capacity to progress such bids. The Chairman felt that one gap appeared to be the provision of kick about areas in populated areas of the borough. He felt that it was also recognised that Brungerley Park had suffered in recent years because of a lack of Council funding. Councillor White was a member of the Sports and Physical Activities Alliance (SPAA) and Members felt that the role of the SPAA might be an area worth exploring.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 8.02pm.

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact John Heap (414461).

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