

Minutes of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 14 September 2010 starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor M Thomas (Chairman)

Councillors:

D Berryman	B Jones
A Gridley	C Ross
R Hargreaves	N Walsh
K Hind	J H White

In attendance: Director of Community Services, Principal Policy and Performance Officer.

286 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors G Geldard, J Hill, T Hill, I Sayers and J S Sutcliffe.

287 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

288 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at the meeting.

289 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

290 REPORT FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Hilton informed Committee that she had been selected to serve on the Older Peoples Service Committee as the Older Peoples Champion and their AGM was due to be held on 20 September 2010. She would report on this Committee to future meetings.

Her main topic for discussion was the recently announced NHS reforms which had been highlighted in the white paper 'Equity and Excellence'. She commented that this was the most radical reform of the NHS since its inception in 1948. It proposed a huge transfer of responsibility for day-to-day NHS matters to general practitioners. There would also be a transfer of the public health element of the NHS away from strategic health authorities and primary care trusts to the top tier of local government (Unitary and County Councils). By 2012/13 both SHAs and PCTs would be abolished. GPs would commission services via local consortia.

Under the public health proposals, there would be a Director of Public Health whose responsibility would include all these relevant areas. There was already a concern that the proposals looked at a countywide service rather than at district

level and the new localism favoured by the new government. Local involvement networks may also disappear as part of the proposals.

Councillor Hilton commented that a small working group had been formed by the Council on which she would serve along with Dr Alan Crowther from the Clitheroe Health Centre to look at how best the GP consortia idea could be made to work on a Ribble Valley footprint.

Members thanked Councillor Hilton for her comprehensive report and asked questions around Clitheroe Hospital, District V County perspectives and how to get the best deal locally for the new GP consortia.

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QUARTER 1 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The Principal Policy and Performance Officer presented her first report of 2010/11 which detailed the Council's performance against national and local performance indicators. The report comprised two sets of information:

- The Council's national indicators, reported by exception for each of the quarters of 2009/2010 and a summary of the Council's local performance indicators for the same period.

Members queried the report in some detail and asked a number of questions on the following indicators:

- LPIEH2 percentage of food premises inspections that were carried out.
- LP1HS1(BV64) number of private sector dwellings that were returned into occupation or demolished.
- LPWM1 number of reported missed collections per thousand population.

On this latter point, the Director of Community Services explained the formula for how the indicator was calculated.

Members were particularly concerned about the indicator LP1HS1 and in particular the fluctuating figures provided.

RESOLVED: That a performance clinic be set up to look in greater depth at the current performance, target and possible future improvements in relation to this indicator; this clinic to comprise the Chair of Health and Housing Committee, relevant Director, Strategic Housing Officer, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Councillor Berryman.

292

REPORT OF WORKING GROUPS

The Chairman, in introducing this item, commented that in 2009/2010 whilst five areas had been chosen for work by working groups of this Committee, in reality only three had come to fruition. He asked Members to bear that in mind when discussing the following items. Committee then looked in detail at the five areas which had been discussed and selected at its previous meeting:

a) Olympiad and its effects on Ribble Valley

Councillor White presented his comprehensive report which looked at the possibility of there being some 'knock on' benefit as a result of the Olympic Games or Paralympics being held in London in 2012.

His research had looked at the objectives, purpose and outcomes of the review. A wide list of consultees had been spoken to and following areas had been covered:

- Business opportunities/economic development
- Employment opportunities
- Training camps
- The Inspire/Lets Do It initiative
- Torch Procession
- Live TV link arenas/games arenas
- Educational programme

Amongst the consultees were police, fire and rescue, Primary Care Trust and Borough Council officers.

Councillor White concluded that whilst the Olympics/Paralympics would provide a golden opportunity for business employment and other ways in which the area could benefit, the reality was that there was little or no benefit which would accrue to our area.

b) Twinning for Ribble Valley

Councillor John Hill had prepared a discussion paper tracing the history of twinning, discussing some of the different options for twinning and the benefits which it could bring to communities in terms of cultural wellbeing and welfare.

Members expressed support for the principle of twinning but felt that it may be inappropriate at the present time given the recession and potential budget cut backs.

c) Member Development

Councillors Hind and Thomas spoke to their scoping document which looked at providing the following outcomes:

1. A better understanding of the current training and development programme and its shortfalls.
2. Identify an improved programme within the available budget/resources.
3. Identify any nationally approved training courses/programmes.
4. A report containing recommendations for the improvement of training and development of RVBC Councillors which incorporated a programme which was achievable within the current

budget/resources of the Council. The working group had made arrangements to meet relevant officers to take this matter forward. Councillor Thomas also reported on a recent training course which he had attended at St Helens.

Discussion then centred around reports which had been prepared previously by Members and how these could be used as learning tools, especially in relation to the Mayoralty and economic development.

d) Energy Efficiency in Council Owned Buildings

Councillor Berryman circulated a discussion paper which he had prepared on this topic. He referred to some good work which had already been carried out such as occupancy lighting, draught proofing and changes in the fuel supply at Ribblesdale Pool. However, he felt that more could and should be done.

The Director of Community Services commented on the remarks made by Councillor Berryman and gave examples of good practice where the Council had been ahead of the game in terms of energy efficiency. He did however concede that there was room for improvement and that there were inevitably budget constraints on many possible improvements.

e) Trees in particular High Hedges and Tree Preservation Orders

Committee again considered the possibility of forming a working group to look at these two areas in more detail. Councillors discussed the pros and cons of moving forward with this particular area of work.

The Chairman then asked Committee whether they wished to proceed with any or all of the topics as working groups to provide a full investigation for report back to a future meeting of this Committee.

RESOLVED: That

1. Committee agree to further work being undertaken by working groups on member development and energy efficiency in Council owned buildings;
2. Councillor Jones be added to the Member Development Working Group and Councillors Sayers and Geldard be added to the Energy Efficiency Working Group; and
3. the following topics be not proceeded with as working groups from this Committee:
 - a) Olympiad and its effects on Ribble Valley
 - b) Twinning
 - c) Trees in particular High Hedges and Tree Preservation Orders

The meeting closed at 8.16pm.

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