

Minutes of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 21 June 2011, starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor M Thomas (Chairman)

Councillors:

R Bennett	S Knox
D Berryman	I Sayers
S Bibby	N Walsh
P Dowson	J White
A Knox	

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

136 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors S Carefoot, J B Hill and C Ross.

137 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 April 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

138 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at the meeting.

139 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

140 BRIEFING ON THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Director of Community Services gave Members a résumé of the responsibilities of Overview and Scrutiny Committee. He reminded them of the background behind Overview and Scrutiny Committees being created, which had been essentially to act as a check and balance for Councils which had opted to move over to cabinet style governance rather than operating a Committee system.

As this Council had chosen to retain its Committee system, it had proved more difficult to operate Overview and Scrutiny as there was no real guidance provided from Central Government.

Originally, the Council had operated two Overview and Scrutiny Committees, one looking at service matters, the other looking at policy issues. Both Committees

had developed work plans and had set up theme based working groups to look in more detail at specific topics or organisations.

In 2008 the two Committees had been merged to form a single Committee. Four key areas of work had been identified:

- community leadership;
- priorities;
- performance; and
- partnerships.

The Director of Community Services urged Members when selecting topics for further investigation, not to choose matters which were being dealt with by another Committee and to try to avoid duplication wherever possible, whilst adding value to the work of the Council.

He referred to the Committee's Terms of Reference which were quite broad but gave Members some degree of flexibility on the work they chose to investigate. Members then discussed this matter in some detail.

RESOLVED: That the matter be noted.

141 QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS – QUARTER 4

The Principal Policy and Performance Officer submitted a report on Quarter 4, giving details of our performance against our performance indicators.

She reported that the report comprised the following information:

- The outturn figures for all of our local performance indicators was provided.
- Performance information was also provided for previous years for comparison purposes.
- Targets for service performance for the year 2010/11 were provided and a traffic light system was used to show variances of actual performance against target.
- Targets have been provided for Members to scrutinise for the following three years.

Analysis had shown that of the 89 indicators that could be compared to target, 53.93% of PI's met the target (green); 30.34% of PI's were close to target (amber); and 15.73% of PI's had missed the target (red).

Analysis also showed that of the 102 indicators where performance trend could be compared over the years, 52.94% of PI's had improved; 34.31% of PI's had stayed the same with 12.75% of PI's having worsened.

Members then asked questions in relation to the following indicators:

- PICL6;
- PIEH2;
- PIEH16;
- PIEH17; and
- LD2.

In relation to Indicator PL14A Members asked for guidance on what constituted a major planning application:

Largescale Major Applications

Dwellings

200 or more dwellings.

(Where number of dwellings to be constructed not given, then site area of 4ha or more.)

All other largescale major developments

Floorspace of 10,000sq.m or more, or site area of 2ha or more.

Smallscale Major Applications

Dwellings

10-199 inc dwellings.

(Where number of dwellings to be constructed not given, then site area of 0.5 to less than 4ha.)

All other smallscale major developments

Floorspace of 1,000sq.m - 9,999sq.m, or site area of 1ha or less than 2ha.

The Director of Community Services outlined for Committee the options available in relation to the next steps:

1. Committee could comment on the indicators and pass these to the parent committee.
2. Adopt a PI as a topic for further investigation.
3. Select an item for further investigation by a performance clinic which consisted of Members of this Committee, the Chair of the parent Committee, relevant Director and Head of Service.

Members then discussed how best to proceed.

RESOLVED: That Committee revisit this item when considering the next report (Quarter 1) at their August meeting and then decide whether a particular indicator needed referral to a performance clinic.

142 TRAINING FOR NEW MEMBERS

The Chairman announced that 6 places had been reserved for Councillors on a scrutiny training course being run by Lancashire County Council on Friday, 8 July. He indicated that he wished to attend this seminar and sought names of other interested Councillors.

RESOLVED: That

1. Councillors M Thomas, A Knox, P Dowson and J White be nominated to attend the LCC Scrutiny Training Course on the 8 July; and
2. the Community Development Officer contact those Councillors not in attendance at this meeting to fill the remaining two vacancies.

143 WORK PLAN 2011/12

The Chairman invited Members to discuss suggested topics for this year's work plan. He explained that he wanted any working groups to be chosen at tonight's meeting so that work could start immediately rather than having to wait until the next meeting in August.

Topics already suggested were:

- safeguarding;
- outside bodies;
- Ribble Valley website;
- Member training;
- energy efficiency in Council owned buildings; and
- the functioning of this Committee.

In addition Committee also discussed a Scoping Document submitted by Councillor Bibby in relation to staff training, development and team building.

The Chairman gave a résumé of each suggested topic for investigation and sought Committee's views as to whether they were viable matters and invited Members to take part in one or more working groups.

RESOLVED: That

1. the following topics be chosen as the work plan for 2011/12, together with relevant working group Members:
 - (a) safeguarding – Councillors S Knox, P Dowson and S Carefoot;
 - (b) outside bodies – Councillors J White, J Bennet and K Horkin;
 - (c) Ribble Valley website – all Councillors and Councillor A Knox;
 - (d) Member training – Councillors D Berryman, S Bibby and J Hill;
 - (e) energy efficiency in Council owned buildings – Councillors D Berryman and I Sayers;

- (f) functioning of this Committee – Councillors M Thomas, A Knox and I Sayers.
- 2. the scoping document on staff training development and team building as now submitted by Councillor S Bibby be referred to Personnel Committee for their further consideration.

The meeting closed at 8.17pm.

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