

**MINUTES OF: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Date of Meeting:** 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021

**Present:** Councillor Johnson (Chair)  
Councillors Janet Eaton, Gill, Kempson, Kenyon, Morris, Procter, Rooke and Thompson.

**In attendance:** Adam Allen, Director of Communities  
Clare Law, Head of People and Policy  
Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager

**Also Present:** Councillors Adshead and Ashworth.  
1 Press  
By remote access – Councillor Lythgoe and 1 member of the public.

---

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted from Co-opted member Z. Ali and Councillor Thompson informed she would be late.

**2. Minutes**

**Resolved:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20th October 2021 be approved as a correct record.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4. Urgent Items of Business**

The Chair confirmed that there were no urgent items of business.

**5. Question Time**

The Chair noted that she would allow questions to be asked on each item as it was discussed.

**6. Chair's Update**

6.1 Lancashire Highways had been unable to attend the previous meeting so they were asked to provide a briefing note. The briefing note had been circulated to committee members to keep members updated on the winter preparations and also to respond to the questions that were previously submitted.

6.2 Members of the committee requested that LCC Highways still be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss their update further.

---

**N.B.** Councillor Thompson entered the meeting.

---

**ORDINARY BUSINESS**

**7. Health and Wellbeing Plan**

7.1 The Director of Communities outlined the Health and Wellbeing Plan for Rossendale.

7.2 In response to members' questions the following clarification was given:

- The document would continually evolve. It set out the principles and broad priorities over the next 9 years and there would be a major review in 5 years.
- The next step was to continue our work with partners and community groups to identify the projects and outcomes that are most important to the community.
- The four priorities would be reviewed after 5 years.
- The plan would be brought back to scrutiny after a year for review.
- This was a partnership plan and was written by the community for the community. Statutory partners have supported the process. It presents a legacy for the very successful Rossendale Connected network.
- The plan was a working draft with illustrative photos only. It would be amended to ensure it represents its inclusivity before presented to full Council.
- Young people needed to be engaged and this could be achieved through Rossendale Connected contacts.
- The Hot Food Takeaway Policy was incorporated into the Local Plan which would be going to the Council meeting in December. If full Council agreed the Local Plan the Hot Food Takeaway Policy would be agreed as part of that process.

**Resolved:**

The committee recommend the Health and Wellbeing Plan to Council for approval and request officers to consider any comments made by the committee and any recommendations for changes prior to approval, including making the plan more inclusive and identifying who the partners were, as well as the community consultees.

**8. Climate Change Strategy Update**

8.1 The Director of Communities gave a presentation and updated members on the Climate Change Strategy.

8.2 In response to members' questions the following clarification was given:

- The Council had started using treated oil (HVO) in four refuse vehicles which worked in the same way as diesel.
- Questions would be asked whether section 34 notices could include evidencing how oil is disposed of responsibly.
- To tackle fly tipping, S34 work was taking place across Rossendale and the expected completion was by late 2022.
- The cost of the HVO was more expensive than diesel but was of greater benefit to the environment. It would also be looked into whether reports were true that vehicles ran more efficiently off HVO.
- There were enough tree sites for the first round of planting, and in relation to biodiversity there was a need to look at peat bogs and ensure trees were planted in the right areas.
- The Council was currently reviewing all assets in each ward, and as part of that work they were also identifying other suitable sites for tree planting.
- The four new electric charge points were run by an external provider who set the tariff and leased the sites from the Council.
- In relation to Council owned leisure buildings there were some things that could be done immediately, but there were other things that would need to wait for refurbishment or big investment before making any changes to ensure it was more cost effective and energy efficient in the long term.
- The energy audit would identify the most suitable solutions for the different facilities.
- The Climate Change Conference had been amended from a 9-12 session for businesses owing to poor uptake. The change to a breakfast meeting following the advice of the Business Advisor had seen uptake increase to 25 attendees.
- As part of the bidding process for grants the Council could provide match funding for a bigger scheme.

- Publicity on the grant schemes would be going out on social media and to businesses as well as being promoted through Rossendale Connected and information being uploaded to the web site.
- The grant forms would be checked by the Equalities Champion to ensure the right monitoring questions were being asked at the right point in time.
- Promotion was taking place with Rossendale Forest to get people involved in the planting.
- Phone apps were able to identify where electric charge points were located.
- More charge points were needed and required a national government scheme owing to cost implications.

**Resolved:**

The committee noted the climate change update and asked officers to consider any comments made by the committee, including checking vehicle efficiency for those using HVO, looking into oil disposal suggestions concerning the S34 notices being used, and getting the Equalities Champion to check the grant application forms to ensure the right monitoring questions were being asked at the right time.

**9. Quarter 2 Performance Report and RIPA Update**

9.1 The Head of People and Policy outlined the Quarter 2 performance report.

9.2 In response to members' questions the following clarification was given:

- The new street cleansing routes were being tested and if successful would be launched and shared with members. It could also be publicised on social media.
- It would also be considered whether the routes could be incorporated into future bin notices if the routes were successful.
- Some performance indicators were not known or not reported this quarter as they were only reported on an annual basis or reported in a particular quarter. For example, staff retention was benchmarked against the national average performance indicator which was an annual benchmark, and the number of garden waste collections was done at a specific point in time and there would be minimum changes throughout the rest of the year.
- Owing to staffing capacity it was not possible for enforcement staff to check all the grot spots on a regular basis. Staff needed to be working on bringing cases for prosecution in a timely manner and in line with the required process.
- The service relied on councillors and members of the public to report incidents of fly tipping in their area. It was recommended to take a photograph of the scene when reporting so officers could come out and investigate further.

**Resolved:**

The committee noted the update, and asked officers to consider any comments made by the committee, including sharing street cleansing routes with members once the routes were deemed successful, and considering whether the routes could be incorporated into future bin notices.

**10. The Forward Plan**

Members were updated on the Forward Plan.

**Resolved:**

The update was noted.

**(The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 8.10pm)**

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date .....