

**MINUTES OF: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Date of Meeting:** 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**Present:** Councillor Johnson (Chair)  
Councillors Foxcroft, Kempson, Kenyon, Morris, Pendlebury (sub), Procter and Rooke

**In attendance:** Inspector Chris Valentine, Lancashire Constabulary  
Gerard Greenhalgh, Treasurer, RAFT  
Caroline Collins, Volunteer Coordinator/Community Organiser, RAFT  
Mandy Lewis, Director of Economic Development  
Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager

**Also Present:** By remote access:  
1 member of the public  
Councillors Ashworth, Cheetham and Walmsley  
John Davies, Head of Service for Highways, Lancashire County Council  
Ridwan Musa, Highways Service Manager, Lancashire County Council  
Jackie Flynn, Communities Team  
Clare Law, Head of People and Policy

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**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Eaton, Gill and Thompson (Councillor Pendlebury subbing).

**2. Minutes**

**Resolved:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 be approved as a correct record.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Johnson declared that she was a RAFT Trustee and that she would not be participating in the Food Banks item and that Councillor Kempson would take over the role of chair for this item (minute 9).

**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 County Council (LCC) Highways were remotely attending, as they had been requested to attend following the previous meeting, along with other partner organisations who were all welcomed to the meeting.

6.2 At the last meeting the committee recommended the approval of the Health and Well-being Plan with some amendments and this had been amended and approved at the Full Council meeting on 15th December 2021.

- 6.3 The first run through of the new street cleaning rounds had taken place up to November and the next sequence was now starting. There were still a few issues to resolve, but they were hoping to circulate something to members next month.

## **ORDINARY BUSINESS**

### **7. Annual Update from Lancashire Constabulary**

7.1 Inspector Valentine provided the committee with an annual update which included the current division structure, number of service calls and time taken to answer calls, crime statistics, comparisons with other areas, non-crime figures, time taken to arrive for Grade 1 and Grade 2 calls, anti-social behaviour update and an update on the local priorities for Rossendale. The Police were looking to re-establish partnerships and face-to-face opportunities to meet communities were also planned, such as at the Bacup and Haslingden Neighbourhood Offices. There would also be opportunity for online PACT (Police and Communities Together), which would assist in highlighting priority issues on which to focus their attention.

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

- Inspector Valentine would look into why only certain social media posts could be shared from the *In the Know* messaging service.
- A trial system was taking place at the bus station in relation to anti-social behaviour (ASB). A new ASB unit was available, which was mobile. This by-passed the 101 service but it was recommended to still report incidents to ensure they were reflected in the crime figures for accuracy.
- Similar to Ribble Valley, the make-up of Rossendale made it harder to catch criminals at the scene owing to the distance needing to be travelled by the patrols.
- Levels of assault and criminal damage had gone down, which corresponded with the reduction in domestic violence (DV) incidents; this indicated that these figures were accurate, rather than it being down to under-reporting.
- The 101 service average response times were a result of quick responses during quieter periods such as early morning, and peak times with longer responses in the afternoons. Call staff were now in one room which was split into pods which could help each other out if one pod had a surge in calls.
- If a crime was not in progress it could be reported using the online service, which would help free up capacity for those answering calls for crimes in progress.
- DV crimes were primarily committed in the home and linked to alcohol or other underlying issues.
- The *Police Now* positions had been part of a national recruitment process which had different criteria to the regional process, and enabled entrants from a more diverse skills background to be considered. It focussed on problem solving and looking at long term solutions.
- It was hoped that PACT would be long term and improve and re-establish working relationships with the communities.
- A PACT meeting was due to take place at Tesco.
- In relation to volunteers, there were volunteers for *Community Roadwatch*.

#### **Resolved:**

The committee noted the annual update, and thanked Inspector Valentine for attending.

### **8. Lancashire County Council (LCC) – Highways**

8.1 John Davies, Head of Service for Highways, and Ridwan Musa, Highways Service Manager, attended the meeting to answer questions following the circulation of the briefing document, which had been provided to members in November.

- 8.2 In response to members' questions the following clarification was given:
- The Transport Asset Management Plan was from 2014 to 2029 and was reviewed every year to look at how the network was performing.
  - At phase 1, A,B and C roads were the focus of our attention. Each road is given a status of red, amber, green, according to its condition after an objective survey.
  - Phase 2 concerned looking at residential type roads.
  - A response would be provided following the meeting regarding the issues raised for the following 3 locations:
    - o Burnley Road, Reedsholme – quality of 3rd party work for the new housing development.
    - o Burnley Road, Rawtenstall (Tup Bridge) worsened flooding after recent resurfacing works undertaken.
    - o Crown Point Road – defects and issues with quality of work after resurfacing.
  - Training is provided for those undertaking road work repairs.
  - Sometimes repairs don't last because of a number of reasons e.g. the existing conditions of the road. These locations are reported for consideration into the capital forward programme.
  - Where possible, first time reinstatements are undertaken where hot tarmac will be used, unless it's on a section awaiting re-surfacing in which case a temporary repair will be made.
  - It was important to keep reporting issues, as the reporting system was one of the tools used in assessing the urgency and priority of repairs to be taken forward into the capital programme.
  - In relation to third party repairs, it remained the third party's responsibility for 2 years from the date the repair was deemed fully fixed.
  - The Asset Management Pan detailed the audit process and progress/improvements on the road networks.
  - Data such as condition surveys, defects reported, repeat calls etc., was used to generate the priority list.

**Resolved:**

The committee noted the update, and thanked LCC Highways for attending. The Chair emphasised that in light of what has been said, it was important to keep reporting issues.

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**N.B.** Councillor Johnson left the meeting for the following item and Councillor Kempson took over to chair the meeting.

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**9. Foodbanks Update**

9.1 Caroline Collins and Gerard Greenhalgh provided a presentation to update members on the work of RAFT which included an update on how the funding had been spent, food vouchers, the number of food parcels delivered, meeting individual needs, the slow cooker project with recipe books, summer holiday support with activities to do, and an update on volunteering and donations. Parcels were provided which were not just for 7 days, but instead parcels contained essential goods which would help in the longer term and recipients were particularly grateful for this support. RAFT was now more active than ever, particularly since the outbreak of covid with people shielding, and also with the rise in fuel bills. It was also linking in with other schemes to help those most in need such as Newground for the new fuel vouchers. RAFT was now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year and members were asked for suggestions on how the 10<sup>th</sup> year could be recognised.

- 9.2 Jackie Flynn from the Communities Team informed that the Council was grateful for the work done by RAFT. Government funding was being provided where it was available to help support this work, which was ongoing. This week the Council had already referred 5-6 people in the space of an hour and 12 referrals had been sent so far this week. Those on low incomes were the hardest hit and tended to shop cheaply on a day-to-day basis, not being able to afford a big weekly shop. Examples were given of a few referrals and feedback was given on just how grateful recipients were to RAFT for this lifeline. She noted that the value for money for this service was phenomenal, particularly since the service used unpaid volunteers.
- 9.3 In response to the updates members' commented as follows:
- Members were appreciative of the work RAFT were doing.
  - Invite RAFT to the next Haslingden Community Partnership and consider attending the other partnerships too, to inform a wider audience and get them to consider volunteering.
  - It was good that Neighbourhood Police felt comfortable dropping in.
  - It had been a phenomenal journey, RAFT had taken on the right approach and gone from strength to strength.
  - They had done some excellent work during the pandemic.
  - Ask Full Council to commend RAFT for their work over the last 10 years.

**Resolved:**

The committee noted the updates, and thanked RAFT for attending.

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**N.B.** Councillor Johnson resumed the position of the chairperson for the remainder of the meeting.

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**10. The Forward Plan**

Members were updated on the Forward Plan and the items coming to the next Overview and Scrutiny meeting.

**Resolved:**

The update was noted.

**(The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 8.40pm)**

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date .....