

SCRUTINY

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROGRESS REPORT TO THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE on 28 SEPTEMBER 2009

Version Number:	1	Team:	Democratic
Date:	September 09	Issued:	
Approval Date:			

1. Purpose of the Report

To provide an update on the overall work of the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Task and Finish Groups over the last three months.

2. Performance Overview and Scrutiny (Leisure)

This Committee met three times (April, June and August).

At the first meeting in April the Committee asked Rossendale Leisure Trust to provide information on the Leisure Trusts performance and action plan, sickness absence levels, financial information and benchmarking costs for leisure facilities.

It was also agreed to receive from the Council, updates from the Pool Review Panel, Bacup Leisure Hall and the newly formed Ski Slopes Review Panel.

At the August meeting, the Committee were informed that Knight, Kavannah and Page (KKP) consultants had been awarded the contract for the Options Appraisal for the delivery of leisure services and an initial meeting with them had already taken place. The Chair informed the Committee that an interim report from the consultants would be presented to the next meeting in October.

The Committee received an update from the Pool Review Panel, Bacup Leisure Hall Review Panel and Ski Rossendale Review Panel Meetings.

The Communities Manager indicated that in relation to the Ski Slopes, meetings had been held individually with all user groups to discuss the scope of the project. The Council had met with user groups and residents interested in joining the Ski Rossendale Review Panel. Councillor Swain had agreed to Chair this meeting.

The Chair commented that the Ski Rossendale Review Panel needed to be set up quickly in order to keep to timescales for a final report to be presented to Cabinet in December.

3. Performance Overview and Scrutiny

This Committee met twice (July and September).

At the first meeting the Committee received the Quarter 4 Integrated Performance Report, which was a very positive report and congratulations were sent to the Planning Department and The Head of ICT for exceeding performance targets.

It was agreed to monitor LI 164 – number of private sector vacant dwellings to ensure that the shortfall was not replicated next year.

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The Committee also received an update on the new powers for Overview and Scrutiny which include the Councillor Call for Action and the review of Crime and Disorder Partnership, which would go to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee in November.

The September meeting received the Quarter 1 Performance Report, Capita Performance Report and the Ombudsman Annual Letter.

4. Policy Overview and Scrutiny

This Committee met twice (June and August) and received the following reports.

- Hot Food Takeaway – Interim Policy Statement
- Update on the Rossendale Supported Housing Strategy
- Verbal report on Best Value Homeless
- Update on the Core Strategy – timetable, visions and objectives
- Information Sharing Protocol
- Protection of Vulnerable Abuse Policy
- Data Quality Strategy

In relation to the Hot Food Takeaway report, Member’s comments were being fed into the report prior to being presented to Cabinet.

In relation to the Rossendale Supported Housing Strategy, Members suggested a number of ways to promote the service.

With regard to the Information Sharing Protocol, members were concerned about the legal comments within the report, which indicated that more work was needed before the protocol was formally adopted. It was therefore agreed not to accept the Protocol and that a more detailed, complete Protocol, be brought to the next meeting in October.

5. Dentistry Task and Finish Group Report (Item D5.)

6. Value for Money Task and Finish Group

Work had recently commenced to look at different areas of value for money within the Council. The Group first looked at the allocation of grants to external organisations including CAB, Credit Union, REAL.

They would also look into the Best Value Review of the Homecare Improvement Agency work that is currently undertaken by St. Vincent’s Housing Association on behalf of Rossendale Borough Council as part of Lancashire County Councils Supporting People Directorate.

At the first meeting on 26 August, the LSP Delivery Officer gave Members an outline of the process for allocation of grants to outside bodies. Further work

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would be undertaken and reported to the next Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee in November.

7. Monitoring of LAAs

The Task and Finish Group met with Liz Murphy and Emma Hussain on 26 August to discuss how to progress with this piece of work. A further update would be provided at the next Overview and Scrutiny Management Meeting in November, when the task group had met.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee is asked to note the progress work undertaken by Members.

Pat Couch
Scrutiny Support Officer

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