

SCRUTINY

PROGRESS REPORT TO THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - 7 SEPTEMBER 2010

Version Number:	1	Team:	Democratic
Date:	September 2010	Issued:	
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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, Task and Finish Groups, Response Groups, together with an health update.

2. Performance Overview and Scrutiny

The Committee met with representatives from the Leisure Trust and CLAW in June 2010 to receive updates on the following:

- Bacup Leisure Hall
- Ski Rossendale
- Haslingden Pool and Marl Pits Development
- CLAW and the Riverside

Further meetings will be held in September and November and February.

The Committee also received a confidential report on Rossendale Transport and representatives from the bus company responded to Members questions. Further updates would be received in November and March.

Also at the meeting, the Committee received the Integrated Performance Report Quarter 4 which was a very positive report and letters of thanks were sent to those service areas who had exceeded their end of year targets.

The Committee received the Sickness Absence Report which highlighted action taken to address sickness absence within the Council.

Two further meetings were held on 19 July and 3 August, when the Director of Customers and Communities gave a presentation on the purpose of the meetings, which was to investigate and discuss where and how savings could be made across the Council's priority areas.

The first meeting looked at the following two priorities:

- Keeping our Borough Clean, Green and Safe
- Encouraging Healthy and Respectable Communities

The second meeting looked at the rest of the priorities which were as follows:

- Providing Value for Money
- Promoting the Borough
- Delivering Quality Services to our Customers
- Delivering Regeneration across the Borough

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Members were also asked to discuss possible impacts of any savings and provide feedback on the findings.

The Director of Customers and Communities informed Members of the savings the Council had already made in relation to both the above priorities and clarified the funding that had already been cut by Central Government and the future cuts we expected to have to make.

Members were then asked to break into groups to focus on the following:

- a) Services which are considered to be the most important; and
- b) Services which could be delivered differently, less, or not at all, to save money

A report would be presented to Cabinet in September highlighting the process of the consultation and ideas on how savings could be made.

3. Policy Overview and Scrutiny

The Committee met twice (15 June and 27 July) and received the following reports.

- Petitions Scheme
- Memorials on a grave
- Memorials not on a grave
- Development of Ashes Plots
- Review of Licensing conditions relating to Animal Boarding Establishments
- Adoption of Amended Schedule 3 of Local Government Act 1982
- Core Strategy and Evidence Base Update
- Green Travel Plan
- Communications Strategy

In relation to the Memorials on a grave, the Committee made a number of comments which would be incorporated into the report prior to being presented to Cabinet.

Members requested a number of recommendations to the Petitions Scheme and it was agreed that these would be included before being presented in Council in July.

With regard to the Animal Boarding Establishment, Members recommended Option 2 of the Authority's Home Boarding Conditions, based on LACORS model licence conditions for home boarding in 2005 around dogs from a single household may be boarded at any one time, taking into account the views of the Committee in relation to a specified number of dogs.

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4. Disabled Facilities Grants Task and Finish Group

The Task and Finish Group had its first meeting on 30 July and received information from Phil Hallows, Housing Renewal Manager and Rebecca Lawlor, Health and Regeneration Manager who provided background information on the process involved in allocating disabled facilities grants.

The Task and Finish Group agreed the following Terms of Reference

- To examine the processes involved in allocating the Disabled Facilities Grant
- To assess the level of demand, referral system, eligibility criteria and means testing process
- To examine the adequacy of the current Disabled Facilities Grant budget, use of available funding and current policy
- To examine the length of wait for urgent and non urgent DFG
- To undertake a site visit to the St Vincent's Homecare Service with the possibility of looking first hand at some of the work undertaken
- To invite representatives from other agencies ie LCC, PCT
- To make recommendations as appropriate to be included as part of Private Sector Housing Strategy

A visit was undertaken on 17 August to St Vincent's Home Improvement Agency. The next meeting of the Task and Finish Group would be held on 1 September, with Officers from Burnley Council in attendance to give a brief overview of how they process Disabled Facilities Grants.

5. SITE VISITS

A visit was undertaken to Rossendale Transport on 7 July to look at the new bus station facilities.

Following concerns raised after the first site visit to the new Rawtenstall Health Centre in relation to rehabilitation services, a visit was arranged to Pendle Community Hospital, Rehabilitation Unit to look at the services they provide and ensure that the same services are offered in Rossendale.

Following the visit on 27 July to Pendle it was agreed that a further visit should be made to the new health centre. This took place on 17 August at 4pm.

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6. RESPONSE GROUPS

As requested by Full Council, a response group was set up to respond to the Court Closures in Rossendale. The Acting Head of Legal Services produced a response following the meeting. Members of the response group were Councillor Sandiford, Councillor Cheetham, Councillor Robertson and Irene Divine, Co-opted Member.

A response group was set up to look at DEFRA, Natural Environment which was held on 25th August with Officers from Regeneration and Communities supporting Members at the meeting.

A response group has been set up to look at the NHS Consultation and is due to meet on 16 September. The Director of Customer Services and Communities will be attending as Lead Officer for Health.

7. LIBERATING THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

The Scrutiny Support Officer had forwarded Members a summary of the above document.

The Chair and Scrutiny Support Officer met with Susan Warburton, Head of Community Services with the Primary Care Trust who recently took up the role of Rossendale Locality Commissioning Lead. She gave a brief overview of timescales for the introduction of the new NHS Structure.

- GP Consortia to be in place by April 2011 – from patient perspective nothing changes
- GP Consortia are aligned to Councils around Primary Board Commissioning Groups
- GPs will directly monitor the outcome of patient care and ensure that Consultants provide appropriate care for the patient needs

It is envisaged that there will be National Commissioning Boards and Regional Commissioning Boards.

It was agreed to hold these meetings bi-monthly, with the next meeting to be held on 27 September. Regular updates will be provided to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Pat Couch, Scrutiny Support Officer **September 2010**

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