

SCRUTINY

PROGRESS REPORT TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - 7 DECEMBER 2010

November 2010

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 and Response Groups.

2. Performance Overview and Scrutiny

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

Bacup Leisure Hall (Sept) – the legal paperwork was now in place and the Council were working out detailed issues with the draft contract and should be complete early October

Bacup Leisure Hall (Nov) – now transferred to a private owner, with use of the building restricted to community leisure use and a financial office. Bacup Community Association (or other similar organisation) would have use of the facilities for not less than 30 hours per week.

Ski Rossendale (Sept) – 2 detailed proposals were submitted and technical assessments were taking place on the proposals

Ski Rossendale (Nov) – there were 6 initial expressions of interest of which 2 were invited to provide a more detailed submission. Unfortunately, their submissions were found to be unviable. The Head of Regeneration and the General Manager of the Leisure Trust were developing a feasible options report for the site, which should be available at the end of December 2010.

Haslingden Pool and Marl Pits Development (Sept) – Meetings had been taking place with the Council, Leisure Trust and the project team. Members had first sight of the plans at the meeting and would submit its outline planning application by the end of September with a view to being sent to Development Control in December

Haslingden Pool and Marl Pits Development (Nov) – The Leisure Trust and the Council commenced the procurement process for the two improved facilities. Four bidders had registered an intention to tender for the projects, with interviews being held on 19 November 2010. The preferred contractor would be appointed on 3 December 2010.

CLAW (Sept) - members received a progress update on actions/progress to date. The Committee were informed that CLAW had a shared facilities lease with Marl Pits and The Service Development Officer for Culture confirmed that work was ongoing on developing the lease.

An invitation to quote had been issued for external support to look at opportunities to increase income at the Riverside and to look at business planning for the venue.

CLAW (Nov) - Globe Consultants had been chosen to review the possible income improvements at the Riverside, which commenced in October. A new Business Plan would be instigated following the review

An Integrated Performance Report for Q4 was received in September and Q1 report was received in November. The reports provided very positive reading and members commended the work of Officers and staff for their hard work.

Members were presented with the following two reports at the October meeting

- Length of Policies, Strategies and Committee Reports
- Capita Performance

In relation to the length of Policies, Strategies and Committee Reports, Members provided a number of cost saving ideas for consideration, which were as follows:

- a) If a report, policy or strategy was being presented to more than one Committee a note should be attached to the report asking Members to keep their copy for discussion at another meeting and if there are any amendments these should be sent to members as an appendix.
- b) Transport arrangements on the agenda should include information about using the Lee Mill bus stop and should only be included on agendas being published on the web for members of the public. The transport information should not be copied and sent to members.
- c) Front pages of Committee reports should be revised to include basic contact details, instead of being at the end of the report.
- d) To save on space, the Community Impact information could be reduced by using smaller type and tick boxes

3. Policy Overview and Scrutiny

The Committee met twice (September and November) and received the following reports.

- HR Policies – Redundancy and Grievance
- Haslingden Home Renew Initiative (Pilot Scheme)
- Vacant Property Strategy
- Governance Model Consultation
- Communications Strategy
- Memorials on a Grave
- Memorial Safety Testing Policy

Members were pleased to note that their comments on the Memorials on a Grave Policy, which was first presented to the Committee in June 2010, had

been considered and a Bereavement Pack had been produced, which could be tailored to each individual's needs and requirements.

4. Task and Finish Groups

Disabled Facilities Grants - The final report was presented tonight to Members for consideration.

Enforcement - A light touch Task and Finish Group met on 3 November to receive details on the process of Planning Enforcement and on 24 November to discuss Environmental Enforcement. It was agreed to meet with the Communities Team to receive a brief presentation on the types of enforcement they undertake. A final report would be produced and sent to Members.

Grants to Outside Bodies – To be highlighted by the Chair at the meeting tonight.

5. Site Visits – A report would be circulated at the meeting for Member's information

6. Response Group

A response group met on 16 September to respond to the NHS Consultation 'Liberating the NHS'. Please contact the Scrutiny Support Officer if you require a copy.

A response group met on 4 October to respond to the Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service Performance Report and Action Plan 2011/12. Please contact the Scrutiny Support Officer if you require a copy.

A response group met on 8 November to comment on the draft document – Making Infant Mortality Everybody's Business.

7. Meeting with the Rossendale Locality Commissioning Lead

The Chair and Scrutiny Support Officer were meeting with Susan Warburton, Head of Community Services with the Primary Care Trust and Rossendale Locality Commissioning Lead on 30 November. An update would be provided at the meeting.

The Scrutiny Support Officer is now the link person for health and should be the first point of contact if any Member hears of any areas of concern in relation to service provision. These would be recorded on a log sheet and sent on a fortnightly basis to Susan for her to respond.

8. Recommendations

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

Pat Couch, Scrutiny Support Officer

November 2010