

Minutes of: **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Date of Meeting: 6 June 2011

PRESENT: Councillor McInnes (Chair)
Councillors Aldred, L Barnes, Crawforth, Driver,
Marriott (substituting for Kenyon), Milling, Morris,
Oakes, Pilling, Robertson, Stansfield

Irene Divine (Co-opted Member)

ALSO PRESENT: Stephen Jackson, Head of Health, Housing and
Regeneration
Stephen Stray, Planning Manager
Pat Couch, Scrutiny Support Officer

IN ATTENDANCE: 1 Member of the Public

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee in the New Municipal year and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor H Steen, Keith Pilkington (co-opted Member) and Councillor MacNae, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration.

2. MINUTES

That the minutes of the meetings held on 2 February 2011 and 7 March 2011, be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of Interest.

4. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items for discussion.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chair agreed to deviate from the Procedure for Public Speaking and allow the member of the public to ask questions as the reports were discussed.

6. CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair provided Members with the following information.

- The meeting with the Rossendale Commissioning Lead would take place on 20th June and Members would be kept up to date on the outcome of the meeting.
- At the September meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, there would be a presentation from the Acute Mental Health Services and what the changes would mean to Rossendale.
- The December meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Management would focus on the review of Community Safety Partnership and the Chair asked Members for a suggestion as an additional presentation – it was agreed to invite someone from the Drug and Alcohol Service to the meeting. A further suggestion could be a presentation on teenage pregnancy. There was discussion on the benefit of receiving a presentation on the Justice System, following the closure of Courts in the Borough and the fact that offenders were unable to attend court/probation service due to transport difficulties. The Scrutiny Support Officer agreed to make enquiries.
- The February Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be to look at the budget for 2012/13.

7. CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DISABLED FACILITIES GRANTS TASK AND FINISH GROUP

The Head of Health, Housing and Regeneration presented the response from Cabinet to the recommendations of the Disabled Facilities Task and Finish Group, indicating that the Cabinet support all the recommendations, which would be implemented as soon as possible.

In relation to minor adaptations under £500, these figures would be available on a quarterly basis within the covalent report that is presented to Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Head of Health, Housing and Regeneration explained that the grants for DFGs are at present £350,000 and the Council provide a top up of £150,000. He explained that due to financial resources the same level of money may not be available in the future.

At the present time there are 18 urgent cases on the waiting list with a further 6 with the Occupational Therapist for assessment. There are 89 non urgent cases on the waiting list. The Task and Finish Group

recommended that 25% of the available funding should be made available for non urgent cases to reduce this element of the waiting list. The Cabinet have agreed that this will be implemented from June 2011.

Members asked a number of questions which the Head of Health, Housing and Regeneration responded.

- People acquiring alterations and then moving home and whether these are written off
- Concern about small pieces of equipment and the need for these to be re-cycled
- Land Registry and the possible claw back on these grants - is this new for Rossendale Borough Council and how much would the Council be able to re-coup?

Resolved:

That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee notes the response from Cabinet to the recommendations of the Disabled Facilities Grants Task and Finish Group.

8. CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ENFORCEMENT TASK AND FINISH GROUP

The Planning Manager presented the response from Cabinet to the recommendations of the Enforcement Task and Finish Group, indicating that two reports had been prepared for approval by Cabinet on 29th June which should address the issues of shop fronts and shuttering. Once the documents had been approved and following consultation, a leaflet would be produced as a guide, which could be given to Members and circulated to local commercial businesses highlighting what type of shutters would be suitable.

Members raised a number of questions in relation to 'shutters' which the Planning Manager responded.

- Concern at the use of 'shutters' in conservation areas
- How would the Council deal with shops that already have shuttering, to which the Planning Manager explained that those who have had them for over 4 years cannot be touched, but those who have had them under 4 years can be investigated
- The need for ongoing discussion with shops, particularly hot food takeaways for the use of roller shutters
- Concern that there is an need for stickers to be put on bins highlighting the company who would take bulky waste collection – the Scrutiny Support Officer would pass this suggestion onto the Communities Team

The Planning Manager indicated that as part of the consultation process there would be discussions with people such as the Chamber of Commerce.

Resolved

That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee notes the response from Cabinet to the recommendations of the Enforcement Task and Finish Group.

9. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2010/11

The Chair presented the Annual Report for 2010/11, which was a combined report of the work of Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Task and Finish Groups and other relevant scrutiny information.

The Scrutiny Support Officer indicated that the report would be presented to the Full Council meeting on 20th July 2011.

Members asked that a vote of thanks be sent to Councillor Sandiford for her dedication to the work of Scrutiny and Chair of Overview and Scrutiny for the last six years.

Resolved:

1. That the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2009/10 be noted.
2. That the report be presented to the Full Council for approval.
3. That thanks be sent to Councillor Sandiford.

10. WORK PROGRAMME 2011/12

The Committee considered the ideas put forward by members of the public, elected members and Council Officers.

The projects for inclusion in the 2011/12 Work Programme were agreed as follows:-

Birthing Centre - An evaluation of the birthing unit within the 'hub' once pregnancy had been confirmed – Agreed to establish a Task and Finish Group to look at this piece of work.

Youth Services - Due to the recent reductions in youth services in the Borough, a Task and Finish Group be established to look at the impact of services for the future, current budgets for young people and facilities which would be available once the cuts take effect.

Street Cleansing Review – Litter has been brought up by both Councillors and the public and it was agreed to establish a Task and Finish Group to look at street cleansing as a whole.

Community Transport – To establish a Task and Finish Group to look at commissioning of Lancashire County Council's community transport. This could be a reserve item for further discussion when a firm decision has been made by LCC on the future of community transport.

Impact Appraisal Procedures- it was agreed that Policy Overview and Scrutiny could look at this as more in depth as new policies are presented to the Committee.

Follow-up Review – the Scrutiny Support Officer to prepare a report following discussion with officers on progress made with implementing past recommendations of Task and Finish Groups ie public conveniences.

Domestic Violence - To establish a Task and Finish Group to look at the provision of support for people suffering from domestic violence – this would include STAR and other local organisations who support this service.

The Scrutiny Support Officer indicated that other items would be added to the Work Programme during the year, as necessary.

Resolved:

That the Work Programme for 2011/12 be approved.

Resolved:

1. That the Work Programme for 2010/11 be approved.
2. That letters be sent the individuals who had completed a scrutiny form, but which had already been through the Council's Complaints Procedure or that a decision was made not to take the issue forward.
3. That the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme be presented to Full Council for information.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 8.15pm

Signed (Chair)

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