

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT TEAM
HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, NELSON
ON 27TH JANUARY, 2015**

PRESENT –

His Worship the Mayor - Councillor G. Roach - Chairman (In the Chair)

Councillors

S. Benson
K. Hartley
A. Mahmood

D. Whalley
S. Wicks

Also present

D. Penney *Keep East Lancashire Frack Free (KELFF)*
P. Kabrna *Craven and Pendle Geological Society*
W. Hall
S. Ali

Officers in attendance

P. Mousdale *Deputy Chief Executive*
K. Haydock *Scrutiny Manager*
G. Whitehead *Localities, Communities and Policy Officer*
L. Rowland *Committee Administrator*

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. J. Beckett, A. Kerrigan and N. McEvoy.)



61. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members were reminded of the legal requirements concerning the declaration of interests and that whipping declarations were also required.

62. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

63. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 9th December, 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

64. COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

The Localities, Communities and Policy Officer gave a presentation on the work of the Community Safety Partnership. He advised the Team of Pendle's priorities and provided a list of the groups that had been established to deal with these priorities.

The presentation included information on performance in dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour and provided brief details on various ongoing actions and target areas.

Following the presentation he answered questions around road safety issues and drug and alcohol services.

65. POLICE AND CRIME PANEL UPDATE

Councillor M. Foxley, the Council's representative on the Lancashire Police and Crime Panel provided an update on the work of the Panel by way of a recent report of the Police and Crime Commissioner. She advised that, as a result of a downsizing exercise, the post of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner had been deleted. A Director had been appointed, and the post of Chief Financial Officer was about to be filled.

The update included information on contact management; concerns over the 101 service; crime statistics; repeat offenders; public confidence and satisfaction levels; Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH); restructuring policy; organised crime groups; a conference on child sexual exploitation; and the Lancashire Leaders and Chief Executives meeting on a combined authority.

Councillor Foxley advised that the Panel would respond to the Commissioner's report at its next meeting.

66. SCRUTINY STUDY OF THE POTENTIAL FOR FRACKING IN PENDLE

Further to a scrutiny review of hydraulic fracturing ("Fracking") being included in the Team's work programme, the Scrutiny Manager submitted an initial briefing paper which provided background information to help the Team scope this piece of work. It was agreed that the purpose of the review was to gather evidence on the practicability, likelihood and desirability (or otherwise) of possible shale gas exploration and exploitation in Pendle.

David Penney of Keep East Lancashire Frack Free (KELFF) had been invited to the meeting to present the case of this local pressure group, who were concerned about the environmental impact of Fracking. The group believed that there were inherent dangers associated with the fracking process and provided the Team with information to support this view. In addition, a document entitled '10 Reasons to say no to the extraction of Shale/Methane Gas' was submitted to the Team for information.

Mr Kabrna of the Craven and Pendle Geological Society provided an alternative viewpoint, believing that a lot of anti-fracking organisations had based their decisions on evidence from the United States (US). He explained that the geology in East Lancashire was different to that of the sites in the US, with the gas being a much deeper resource. In addition, he understood that the shales along the M65 corridor were too shallow to be fracked. He also advised that UK rules and regulations were more stringent than those in the US.

It was the opinion of Mr Kabrna that exploration work should be encouraged and then the situation be re-evaluated.

The Team acknowledged that alternative sources of energy needed to be explored and with each proposition i.e. wind turbines, nuclear power, there would be differing opinions. In order to reach an informed decision it was important to consider all viewpoints.

RESOLVED

That representatives of the energy company Cuadrilla, the Environment Agency and Lancashire County Council be invited to attend the next meeting of this Team to discuss the potential for Fracking in the East Lancashire area.

67. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL

The Scrutiny Manager provided an update on the work of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel.

At the Panel's last meeting, Members had been presented with a short film that had been made during the course of the joint review of the Adult Social Care Complaints Procedure, which featured two sisters who had prompted the Panel's work on adult social care. The Panel had agreed that, subject to receipt of the appropriate written consent, the film should be used to raise awareness of improvements required within adult social care and provide training for staff/students within the health and social care sector.

The Panel had also received further evidence in respect of the review of district nursing provision and had been provided with an update on progress in developing a dementia friendly community in Pendle.

The work of West Craven Committee in monitoring emergency ambulance response rates was also noted and it was agreed to include North West Ambulance Service response times across Pendle as a regular item on future panel meeting agendas.

68. EXECUTIVE WORK PROGRAMME/FORWARD PLAN

The Executive Work Programme and Forward Plan for the four month period commencing 1st February, 2015 was submitted for consideration.

69. WORK PLAN

The Team's annual work plan was submitted for information.

CHAIRMAN _____