# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT TEAM HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, NELSON ON 11<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2015

PRESENT -

His Worship the Mayor Councillor N. Ahmed

Councillor A. Mahmood – Vice-Chairman (In the Chair)

### **Councillors**

M. AdamsJ. NixonS. BensonG. RoachW. BlackburnS. Wicks

K. Hartley

### Also present

Councillor D. Whipp Council's representative on the Lancashire Police and Crime Panel

#### Officers in attendance

G. Whitehead Lead for Community Safety

P. Mousdale Corporate Director

L. Rowland Committee Administrator

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C. Wakeford and N. McEvoy.)

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#### 14. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

## 15. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr G. Bird asked what level of input the Scrutiny Management Team had had with regard to the transfer of services to town and parish councils. He stated that there had been a large increase in the precept determined by Nelson Town Council and asked if the scrutiny team had been consulted on this.

It was explained that the transfer of services to town and parish councils was an ongoing process, which had begun over 2 years ago. The work had been led by the Council's Executive and had involved several meetings with the town and parish councils. The individual councils had already taken on some services and had been provided with a list of other services available for transfer. Their level of interest was awaited. It was acknowledged that the number of services taken on by the individual town and parish councils could affect the level of council tax precept they chose to set. However, this was a decision for the individual councils who were not restricted in their council tax increase in the same way that Pendle Council was.

16. MINUTES

#### **RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

# 17. COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

The Council's Lead for Community Safety gave a presentation on the work of the Community Safety Partnership over the last six months. He provided details on the priorities for Pendle and reported on the crime figures to July, 2015. Reference was also made to the positive work carried out by the Partnership, in particular the success of the outreach service for those in need of drug and alcohol support and action around Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).

It was explained that the Partnership faced a number of challenges in the years ahead and information was provided on how these would be addressed.

Throughout the presentation he answered questions from Members.

#### 18. POTENTIAL SHALE GAS EXPLORATION

Further to this item being deferred at the last meeting of the Team, Committee Services submitted a briefing note which advised Members on the recent shale gas activity in Lancashire. This had included an application by an oil and gas company for planning permission to develop two new sites in Lancashire (one in Fylde West and one in Fylde East) to explore for shale gas by drilling, fracking and testing the flow of gas. Both of the applications had been refused by the County Council's Development Control Committee.

The Team was also reminded that it had previously been established that exploration could only be carried out under licence and that currently, there were no licences covering Pendle. An announcement from the Department of Energy and Climate Change on licence awards for the 14<sup>th</sup> onshore round was still awaited.

Members were asked to consider whether they wished to continue the study.

#### **RESOLVED**

That, pending further information, consideration of this item be deferred for 6 months.

## 19. REVIEW MONITORING

## **Promoting Pendle**

A monitoring report on the Scrutiny Review of Promoting Pendle was submitted for information.

#### **RESOLVED**

That, following the Tour of Britain event in September of this year, the Housing, Health and Economic Development Service Manager be requested to assess the impact of the event on the Borough and report back to the January 2016 meeting of this Team.

#### 20. ANNUAL EMISSIONS REPORT

The Strategic Director submitted, for information, the annual emissions report, which had been considered by the Executive at its meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> July.

# 21. LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (LSP) THEMATIC GROUPS REPORT

A report of the Neighbourhood Services Manager on progress with the Sustainable Communities Strategy Thematic Groups for the period June 2014 to July 2015, which had been considered by the Executive at its meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, was submitted for information.

### 22. POLICE AND CRIME PANEL UPDATE

Councillor D. Whipp, the Council's representative on the Lancashire Police and Crime Panel provided an update on the work of the Panel. He reported that the annual meeting had taken place in July, at which the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) presented his annual report. This included a list of decisions made since the previous meeting of the Panel. One such decision was the extension of the Chief Constable's contract. It was explained that this was the final extension allowed by law. The process/timetable for the appointment of a new Chief Constable was currently unclear.

The Panel had also received details on grants awarded via the Commissioner's Community Action Fund, which was available for community groups to bid into. It was noted that Pendle had not been in receipt of an equitable share of this fund due to limited applications. As a result, the fund was to be promoted through the Council's area committees.

#### 23. LCC HEALTH SCRUTINY CO-OPTEES REPORT

Councillor A. Mahmood, the Council's co-optee on the Lancashire County Council Health Scrutiny Committee reported on that Committee's work over the last six months. He reported on two presentations that had been received by the Committee. The first was by the North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) and focussed on service delivery and performance standards for emergency calls. The second presentation was in relation to incidents of falls in Lancashire's 65 and over population.

The Team also received information on the NWAS performance in relation to 'Red 1' calls.

#### **RESOLVED**

That the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel be asked to monitor the performance of the North West Ambulance Service.

#### 24. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL

The draft minutes of a meeting of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel held on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 were submitted for information.

#### 25. PERFORMANCE MONITORING PANEL UPDATE

It was reported that, further to a request from the Executive, a meeting had been held with the Leader and Chairman of this Team to discuss the future of the Performance Monitoring Panel

Scrutiny Management Team (11.08.2015)

where it had been agreed that the Performance Monitoring Panel be disbanded and future performance statistics be reported to the Executive for information.

#### 26. 2015/16 WORK PROGRAMME

Further to a decision at the last meeting of the Team, Members had been invited to submit further suggestion for topics for scrutiny. It was reported that the following three suggestions had been received –

- To give due consideration to the monitoring report on the Scrutiny Review of Promoting Pendle, in particular the plans for marketing the borough at the Cycle Race
- To revisit the survey that was carried out some time ago about parking in Barrowford
- Neighbourhood Priority Fund

Further details were provided in a briefing note from Committee Services.

#### **RESOLVED**

- (1) That the monitoring report on the Scrutiny Review of Promoting Pendle has been given due consideration and therefore no further action is required.
- (2) That, due to the limited opportunities to provide further parking in Barrowford, there would be no benefit in carrying out a scrutiny review on this topic.
- (3) That, as the Neighbourhood Priority Fund is within the jurisdiction of Lancashire County Council, nothing would be gained by carrying out a review.

#### 27. EXECUTIVE WORK PROGRAMME/FORWARD PLAN

The Executive Work Programme and Forward Plan for the four month period commencing 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2015 was submitted for consideration.

#### 28. WORK PLAN

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

#### RESOLVED

That all area committees be invited to submit further suggestions for this year's scrutiny work programme.