

REPORT BY THE 2015/16 CHAIRMAN OF THE SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT TEAM ON OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ACTIVITY

Scrutiny Management Team

Since the report to the last Council meeting the Scrutiny Management Team has met twice. My last meeting as Chairman and scrutiny member was held on 22nd March, where the following was discussed -

- We received details on the Visitor Economy Plan for Pendle (VEPP) 2016/17 which had been approved by the Executive a few days earlier. This followed on from the Team's scrutiny review of promoting Pendle and included targeted actions aimed at increasing visitor economy activity.
- We also looked at Pendle's Cycling Strategy 2016-2021 which has been developed following the success of Stage 2 of the Tour of Britain Cycle Race and is building on this legacy. The scrutiny team feel that the Council should appoint a Cycling Member Champion and hope that Members agree with this proposal when discussed at the meeting this evening.
- We took on board public concern over flooding and in particular the damage and disruption caused by Storm Eva which hit Pendle on Boxing Day 2015. Therefore, at our request, the Neighbourhood Services Manager provided us with detailed information on the Council's response to Storm Eva. A great deal of hard work went into making sure those residents affected were helped and listened to, by staff who gave up some of their Christmas holidays to provide a fantastic service. It was a great team effort. However, it was acknowledged that, going forward some changes need to be made. The Team is therefore going to carry out a review of the Council's Flood Policy later on this year.
- We were pleased to approve Pendle's Dementia Action Alliance Action Plan, subject to a few slight amendments. The Alliance consists of partners across the public, private, voluntary and faith sectors and is chaired by an independent, community based chairman. In order to receive an update on progress the Team hope to welcome the chairman and an appropriate officer of the Council to a future meeting.
- We were disappointed to hear of the limited success of the community toilet scheme that had been set up in Colne two years ago. It had been reliant on businesses allowing the general public to use their facilities. Unfortunately only a small number of businesses had signed up to the scheme and a number of these had since closed or changed hands.
- Finally we agreed the work programme for 2016/17 which includes a number of full and light touch reviews and was agreed at the Annual Council meeting in May.

Councillor Christian Wakeford,
Chairman, Scrutiny Management Team 2015/2016
29th June, 2016